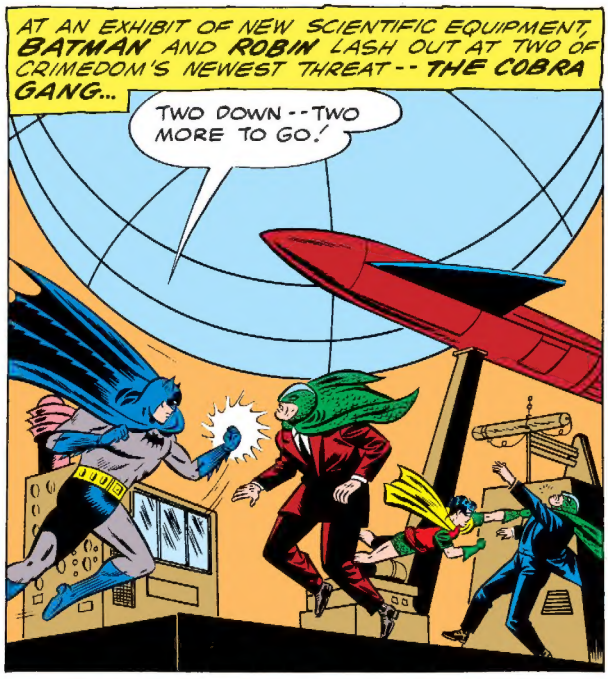
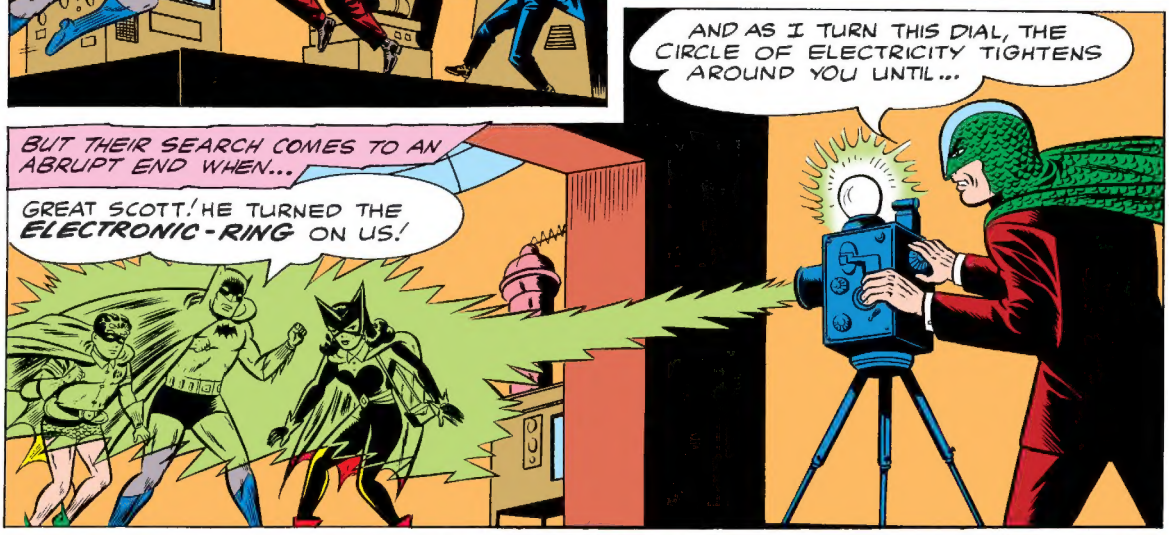
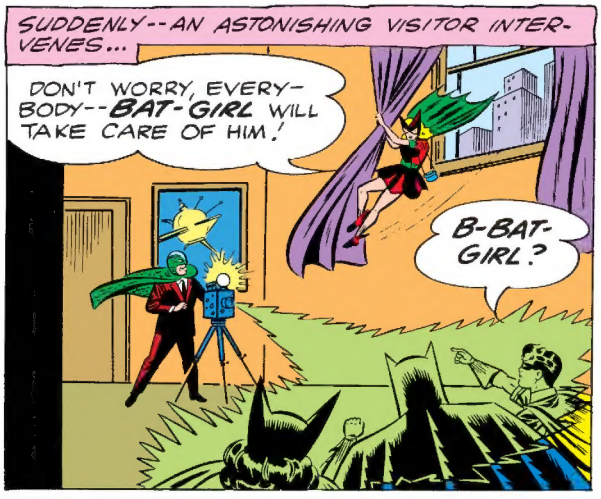
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
APR.
NO. 139
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
BATMAN, ROBIN and BATWOMAN Meet "BAT-GIRL!"
DON'T WORRY-- BAT-GIRL WILL SAVE YOU!
NOW, WHEN I TURN THIS DIAL, THE ELECTRONIC RING WILL TIGHTEN ABOUT YOU-- AND YOU'LL BE DOOMED!

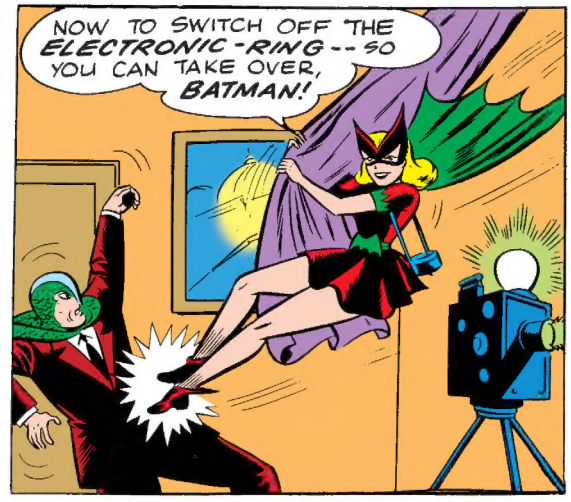
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
CRIMINALS, BEWARE! A NEW CRIME-FIGHTER IS COMING YOUR WAY! YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD TROUBLE BATTLING BATMAN AND ROBIN-- YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD TO BE WARY OF BATWOMAN-- BUT WAIT TILL YOU COME UP AGAINST A PRETTY TEEN-AGER! YOU'D BETTER SCRAM -- TAKE IT ON THE LAM-- BECAUSE HERE SHE COMES...
BAT-GIRL!
THAT SELF-INFLATING BALLOON SHOULD THROW THEM OFF-GUARD SO I CAN LASSO THEM WITH MY BAT-ROPE!
IT--IT'S BAT-GIRL!
BOB KANE

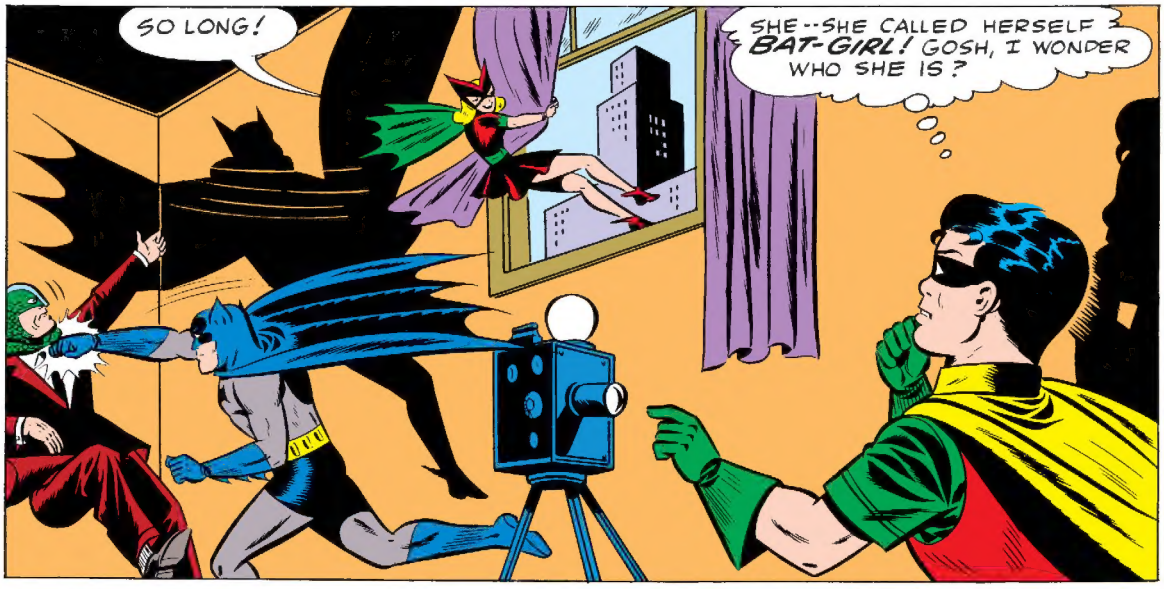

AT AN EXHIBIT OF NEW SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, BATMAN AND ROBIN LASH OUT AT TWO OF CRIMEDOM'S NEWEST THREAT -- THE COBRA GANG...
TWO DOWN -- TWO MORE TO GO!

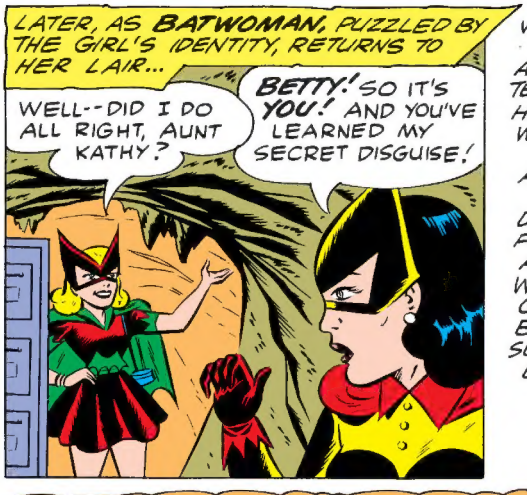
...WHILE ANOTHER IS FELLED BY THEIR ALLY -- BATWOMAN!
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER ONE LOOSE AROUND HERE, BATMAN! WE'D BETTER FIND HIM!


AND AS I TURN THIS DIAL, THE CIRCLE OF ELECTRICITY TIGHTENS AROUND YOU UNTIL...
BUT THEIR SEARCH COMES TO AN ABRUPT END WHEN...
GREAT SCOTT! HE TURNED THE ELECTRONIC-RING ON US!

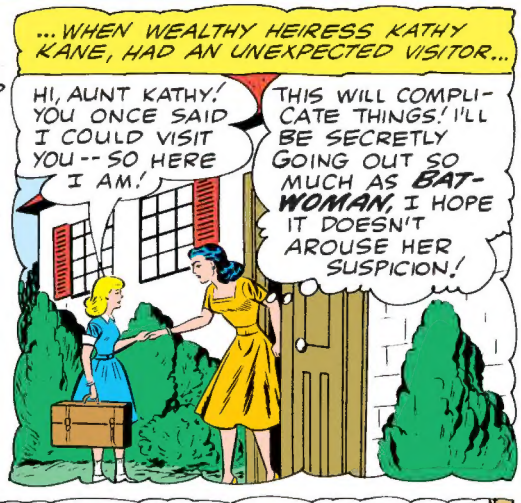

SUDDENLY -- AN ASTONISHING VISITOR INTERVENES...
DON'T WORRY, EVERYBODY -- BAT-GIRL WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
B-BAT-GIRL?

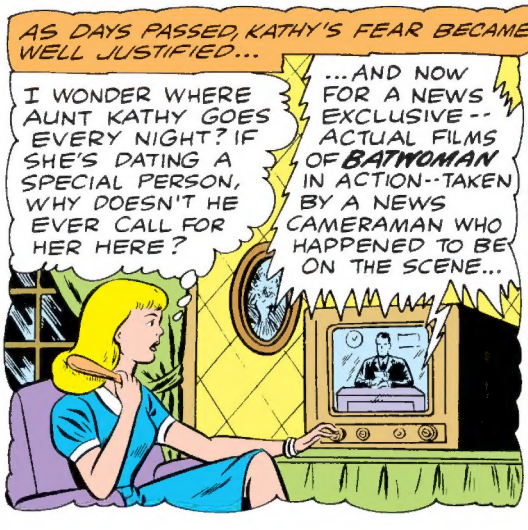

NOW TO SWITCH OFF THE ELECTRONIC-RING -- SO YOU CAN TAKE OVER, BATMAN!

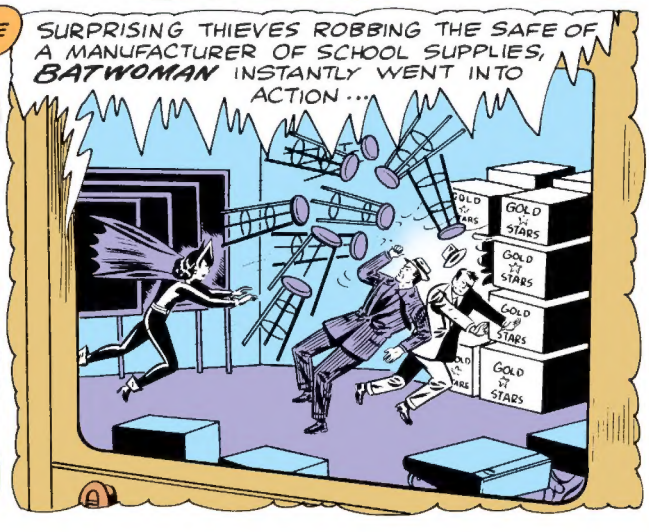


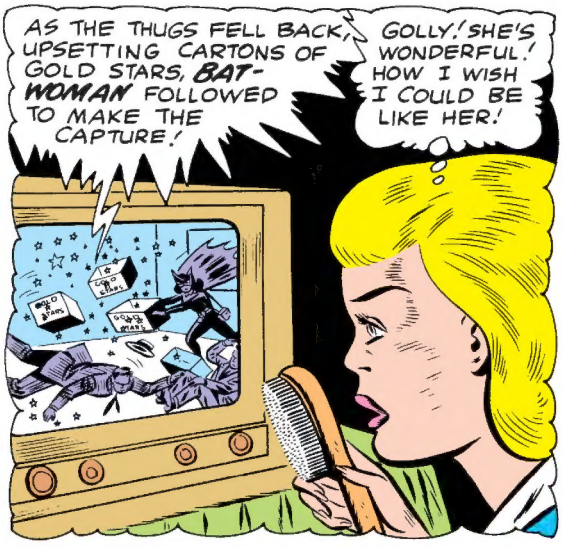


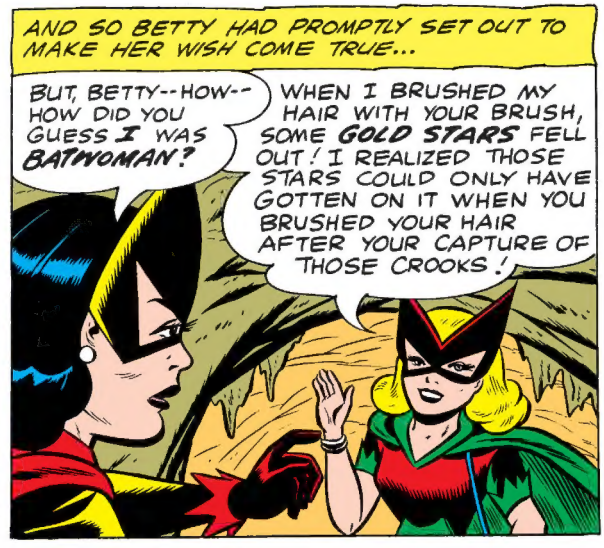
WHO IS THIS AMAZING TEEN-AGER? HOW AND WHY DID SHE ASSUME THIS DISGUISE? FOR THE ANSWERS, WE MUST GLANCE BACK TO SOME DAYS BEFORE...

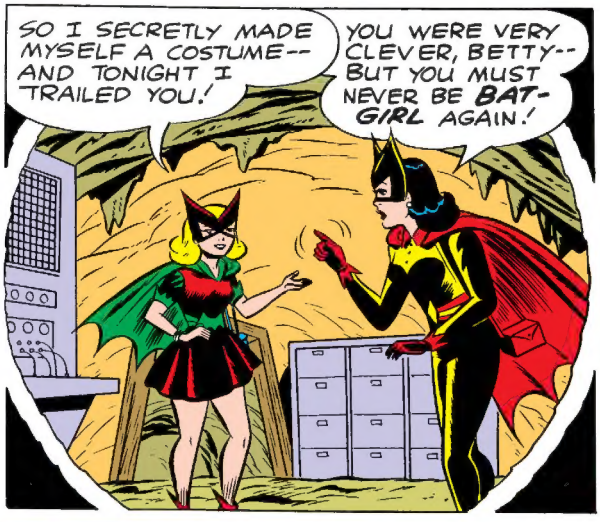


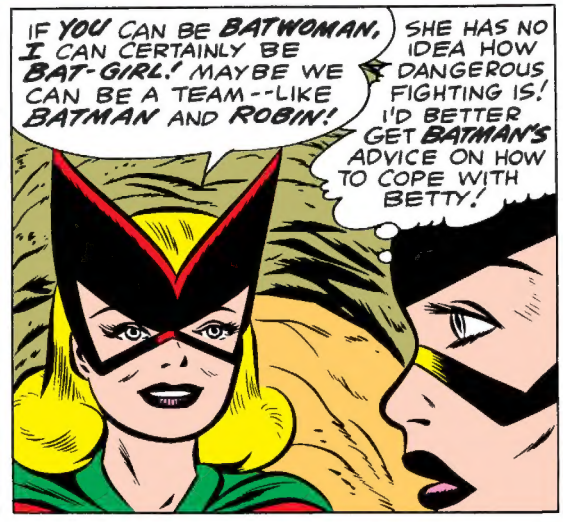


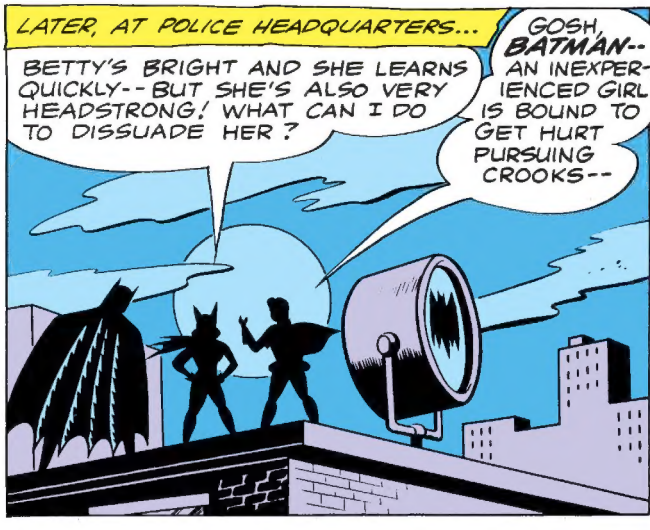



AS THE THUGS FELL BACK, UPSETTING CARTONS OF GOLD STARS, BAT-WOMAN FOLLOWED TO MAKE THE CAPTURE!
GOLLY! SHE'S WONDERFUL! HOW I WISH I COULD BE LIKE HER!

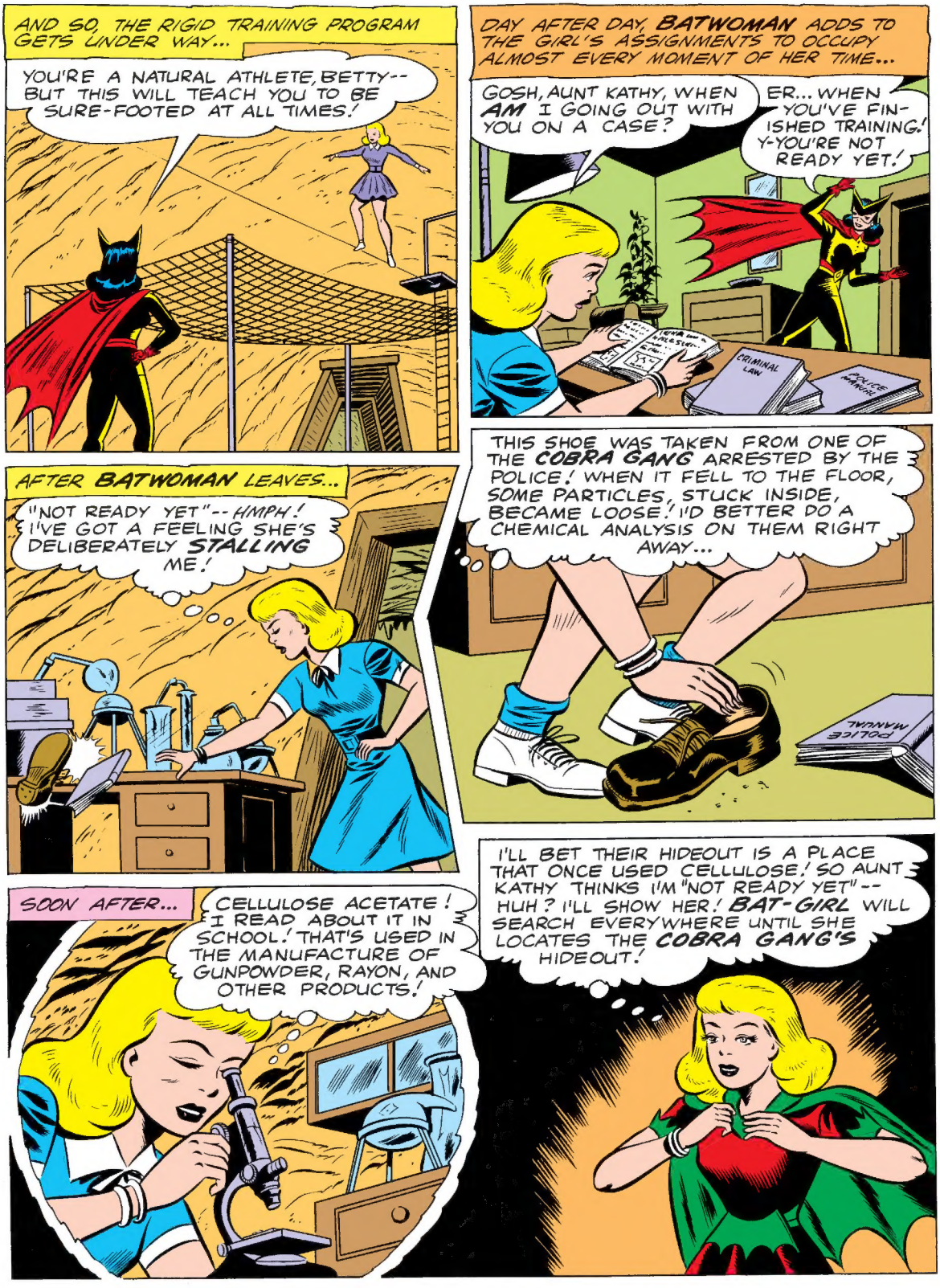

AND SO BETTY HAD PROMPTLY SET OUT TO MAKE HER WISH COME TRUE...
BUT, BETTY--HOW--HOW DID YOU GUESS I WAS BATWOMAN?
WHEN I BRUSHED MY HAIR WITH YOUR BRUSH, SOME GOLD STARS FELL OUT! I REALIZED THOSE STARS COULD ONLY HAVE GOTTEN ON IT WHEN YOU BRUSHED YOUR HAIR AFTER YOUR CAPTURE OF THOSE CROOKS!

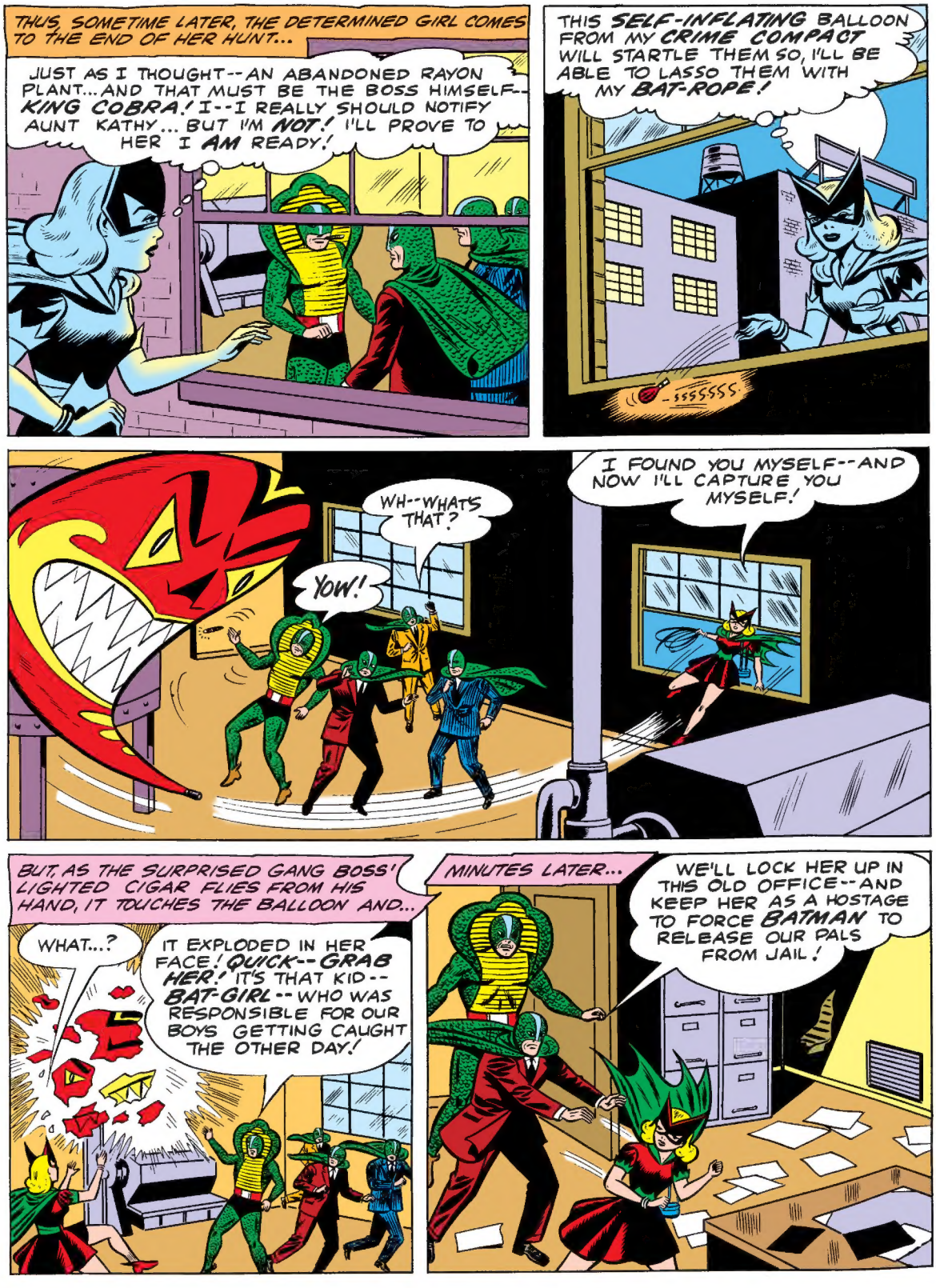

SO I SECRETLY MADE MYSELF A COSTUME--AND TONIGHT I TRAILED YOU!
YOU WERE VERY CLEVER, BETTY--BUT YOU MUST NEVER BE BAT-GIRL AGAIN!

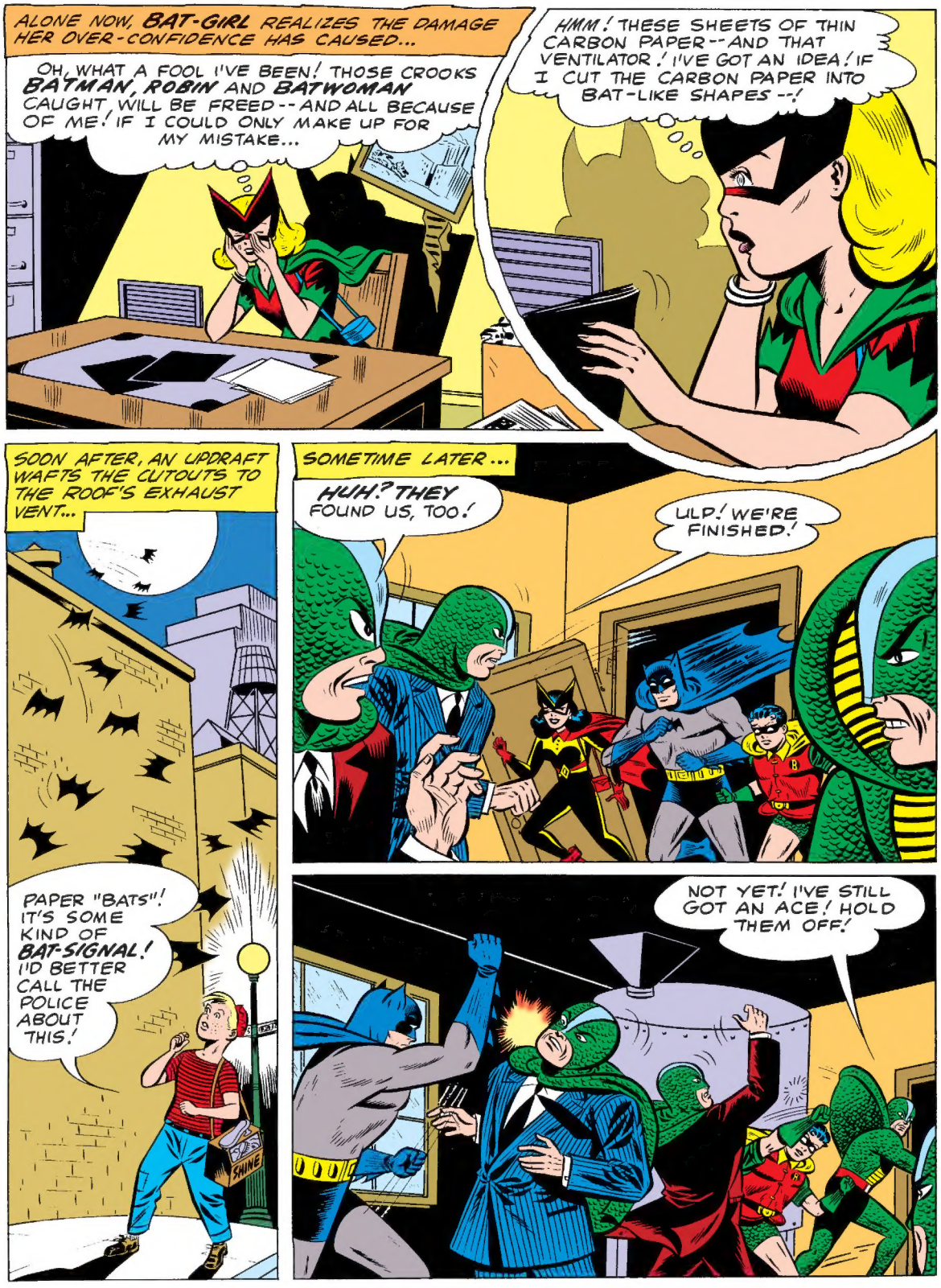

IF YOU CAN BE BATWOMAN, I CAN CERTAINLY BE BAT-GIRL! MAYBE WE CAN BE A TEAM--LIKE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW DANGEROUS FIGHTING IS! I'D BETTER GET BATMAN'S ADVICE ON HOW TO COPE WITH BETTY!

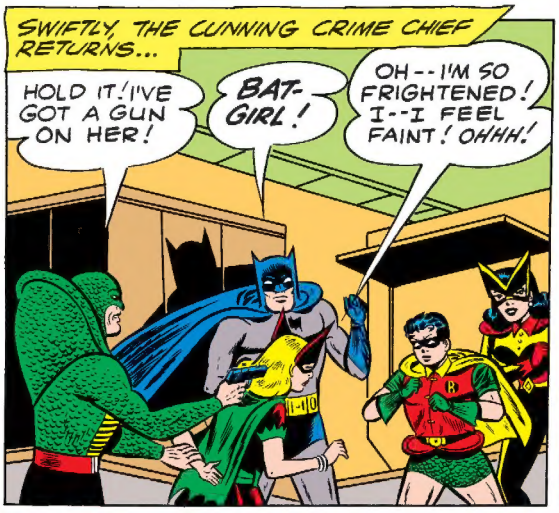

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
BETTY'S BRIGHT AND SHE LEARNS QUICKLY--BUT SHE'S ALSO VERY HEADSTRONG! WHAT CAN I DO TO DISSUADE HER?
GOSH, BATMAN--AN INEXPERIENCED GIRL IS BOUND TO GET HURT PURSUING CROOKS--

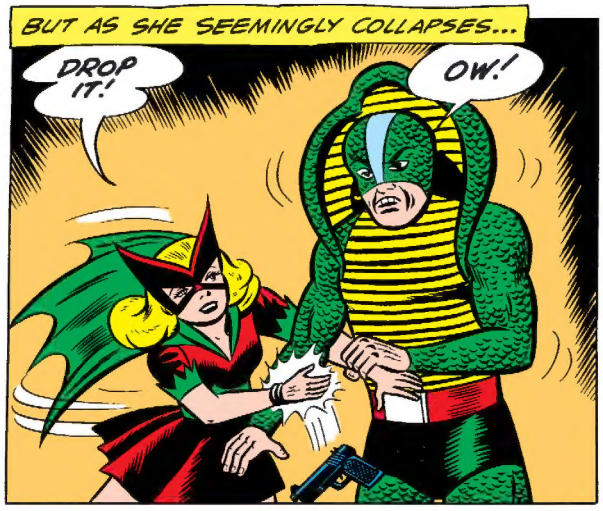
THAT'S IT! SUPPOSE, BATWOMAN, YOU PRETEND YOU'LL ALLOW HER TO BE BAT-GIRL--BUT ONLY AFTER A LOT OF TRAINING...
FINE! I'LL STALL HER BY KEEPING HER IN TRAINING UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR HER TO RETURN HOME!

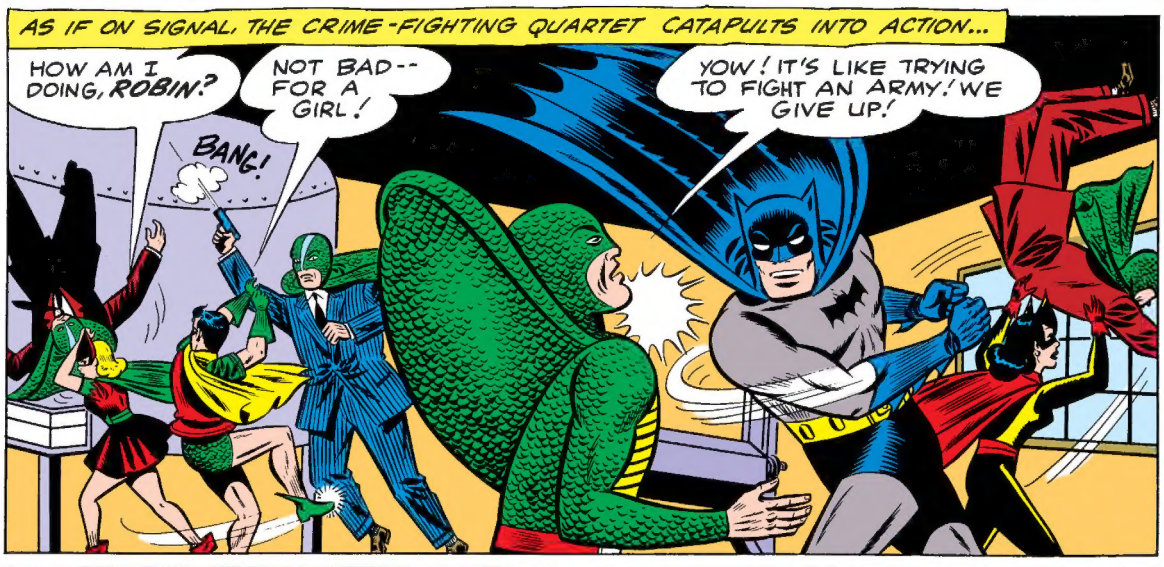

AND SO, THE RIGID TRAINING PROGRAM GETS UNDER WAY...
YOU'RE A NATURAL ATHLETE, BETTY-- BUT THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO BE SURE-FOOTED AT ALL TIMES!
DAY AFTER DAY, BATWOMAN ADDS TO THE GIRL'S ASSIGNMENTS TO OCCUPY ALMOST EVERY MOMENT OF HER TIME...
GOSH, AUNT KATHY, WHEN AM I GOING OUT WITH YOU ON A CASE?
ER... WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED TRAINING! Y-YOU'RE NOT READY YET!
CRIMINAL LAW
POLICE MANUAL
AFTER BATWOMAN LEAVES...
"NOT READY YET"-- HMPH! I'VE GOT A FEELING SHE'S DELIBERATELY STALLING ME!
THIS SHOE WAS TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE COBRA GANG ARRESTED BY THE POLICE! WHEN IT FELL TO THE FLOOR, SOME PARTICLES, STUCK INSIDE, BECAME LOOSE! I'D BETTER DO A CHEMICAL ANALYSIS ON THEM RIGHT AWAY...
POLICE MANUAL
SOON AFTER...
CELLULOSE ACETATE! I READ ABOUT IT IN SCHOOL! THAT'S USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF GUNPOWDER, RAYON, AND OTHER PRODUCTS!
I'LL BET THEIR HIDEOUT IS A PLACE THAT ONCE USED CELLULOSE! SO AUNT KATHY THINKS I'M "NOT READY YET"-- HUH? I'LL SHOW HER! BAT-GIRL WILL SEARCH EVERYWHERE UNTIL SHE LOCATES THE COBRA GANG'S HIDEOUT!

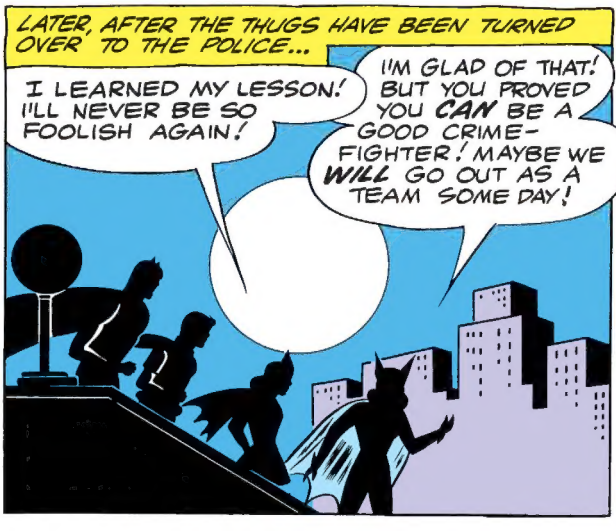

THUS, SOMETIME LATER, THE DETERMINED GIRL COMES TO THE END OF HER HUNT...
JUST AS I THOUGHT--AN ABANDONED RAYON PLANT...AND THAT MUST BE THE BOSS HIMSELF--KING COBRA! I--I REALLY SHOULD NOTIFY AUNT KATHY... BUT I'M NOT! I'LL PROVE TO HER I AM READY!
THIS SELF-INFLATING BALLOON FROM MY CRIME COMPACT WILL STARTLE THEM SO, I'LL BE ABLE TO LASSO THEM WITH MY BAT-ROPE!
-SSSSSSS-
WH--WHAT'S THAT?
YOW!
I FOUND YOU MYSELF--AND NOW I'LL CAPTURE YOU MYSELF!
BUT, AS THE SURPRISED GANG BOSS' LIGHTED CIGAR FLIES FROM HIS HAND, IT TOUCHES THE BALLOON AND...
WHAT...?
IT EXPLODED IN HER FACE! QUICK--GRAB HER! IT'S THAT KID--BAT-GIRL--WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR BOYS GETTING CAUGHT THE OTHER DAY!
MINUTES LATER...
WE'LL LOCK HER UP IN THIS OLD OFFICE--AND KEEP HER AS A HOSTAGE TO FORCE BATMAN TO RELEASE OUR PALS FROM JAIL!


ALONE NOW, BAT-GIRL REALIZES THE DAMAGE HER OVER-CONFIDENCE HAS CAUSED...
OH, WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! THOSE CROOKS BATMAN, ROBIN AND BATWOMAN CAUGHT, WILL BE FREED -- AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME! IF I COULD ONLY MAKE UP FOR MY MISTAKE...
HMM! THESE SHEETS OF THIN CARBON PAPER -- AND THAT VENTILATOR! I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IF I CUT THE CARBON PAPER INTO BAT-LIKE SHAPES --!
SOON AFTER, AN UPDRAFT WAFTS THE CUTOUTS TO THE ROOF'S EXHAUST VENT...
PAPER "BATS"! IT'S SOME KIND OF BAT-SIGNAL! I'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE ABOUT THIS!
SHINE
SOMETIME LATER...
HUH? THEY FOUND US, TOO!
ULP! WE'RE FINISHED!
NOT YET! I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE! HOLD THEM OFF!


SWIFTLY, THE CUNNING CRIME CHIEF RETURNS...
HOLD IT! I'VE GOT A GUN ON HER!
BAT-GIRL!
OH--I'M SO FRIGHTENED! I--I FEEL FAINT! OHHH!


BUT AS SHE SEEMINGLY COLLAPSES...
DROP IT!
OW!

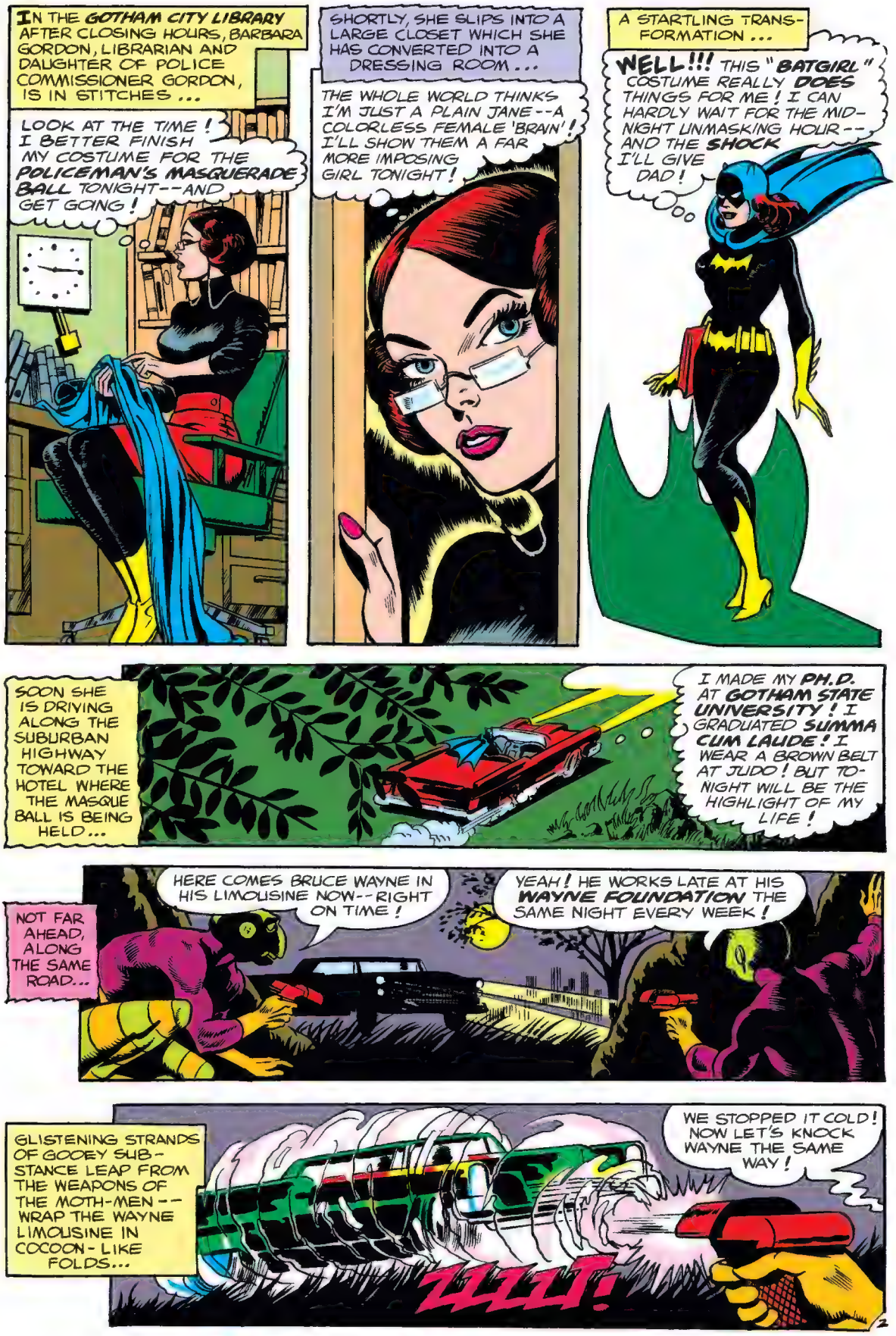

AS IF ON SIGNAL, THE CRIME-FIGHTING QUARTET CATAPULTS INTO ACTION...
HOW AM I DOING, ROBIN?
NOT BAD--FOR A GIRL!
BANG!
YOW! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO FIGHT AN ARMY! WE GIVE UP!

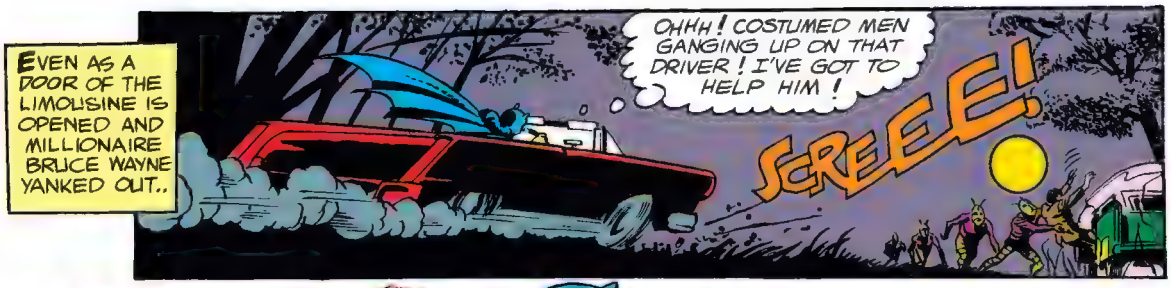

LATER, AFTER THE THUGS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...
I LEARNED MY LESSON! I'LL NEVER BE SO FOOLISH AGAIN!
I'M GLAD OF THAT! BUT YOU PROVED YOU CAN BE A GOOD CRIME-FIGHTER! MAYBE WE WILL GO OUT AS A TEAM SOME DAY!

OH, I CAN HARDLY WAIT! AND PERHAPS ROBIN AND I CAN WORK ON A CASE TOGETHER, TOO! WELL, ROBIN--IS THAT A DATE?
ULP!
The End

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
STARRING
JAN. NO. 359
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DETECTIVE COMICS
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
MEET THE NEW BATGIRL!
IS SHE HEROINE OR VILLAINESS?
WHAT IS HER STARTLING SECRET IDENTITY?
"The MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT of BATGIRL!"
INFANTINO + ANDERSON

BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
INTRODUCING THE NEW BATGIRL
OUT OF THE SUPER-STAR STUDDED FIRMAMENT OF GOTHAM CITY, WHERE BATMAN AND ROBIN SHINE SUPREME AS MASKED MANHUNTERS-- BURSTS A BRAND NEW LUMINARY-- BATGIRL! AND LIKE THAT VERY BATMAN AFTER WHOM SHE MODELS HERSELF-- SHE TOO BATTLES CRIME AND IN-JUSTICE IN A MANNER WONDROUS ENOUGH FOR NEWSPAPERS TO PROCLAIM IN BANNER HEADLINES--
"THE MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT OF BATGIRL!"
NOW THAT I'VE GOT BATGIRL OUT OF THE WAY, I CAN GIVE MY FULL ATTENTION TO MY OLD NEMESIS, BATMAN!
WHO IS THIS NEW BATGIRL WHO SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN OVER MY CRIME-FIGHTING TERRITORY?

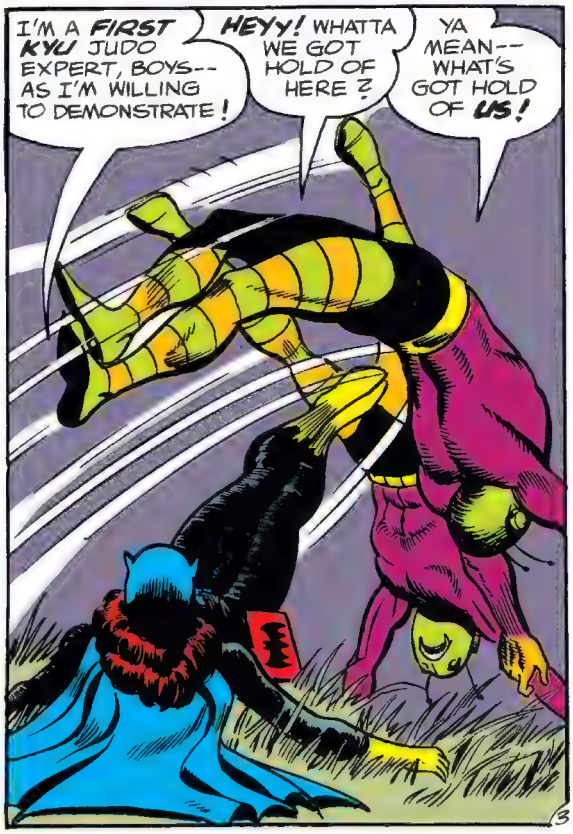

IN THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY AFTER CLOSING HOURS, BARBARA GORDON, LIBRARIAN AND DAUGHTER OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, IS IN STITCHES ...
LOOK AT THE TIME! I BETTER FINISH MY COSTUME FOR THE POLICEMAN'S MASQUERADE BALL TONIGHT--AND GET GOING!
SHORTLY, SHE SLIPS INTO A LARGE CLOSET WHICH SHE HAS CONVERTED INTO A DRESSING ROOM ...
THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS I'M JUST A PLAIN JANE--A COLORLESS FEMALE 'BRAIN'! I'LL SHOW THEM A FAR MORE IMPOSING GIRL TONIGHT!
A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION ...
WELL!!! THIS "BATGIRL" COSTUME REALLY DOES THINGS FOR ME! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE MIDNIGHT UNMASKING HOUR--AND THE SHOCK I'LL GIVE DAD!
SOON SHE IS DRIVING ALONG THE SUBURBAN HIGHWAY TOWARD THE HOTEL WHERE THE MASQUE BALL IS BEING HELD...
I MADE MY PH.D. AT GOTHAM STATE UNIVERSITY! I GRADUATED SUMMA CUM LAUDE! I WEAR A BROWN BELT AT JUDO! BUT TONIGHT WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY LIFE!
NOT FAR AHEAD, ALONG THE SAME ROAD...
HERE COMES BRUCE WAYNE IN HIS LIMOUSINE NOW--RIGHT ON TIME!
YEAH! HE WORKS LATE AT HIS WAYNE FOUNDATION THE SAME NIGHT EVERY WEEK!
GLISTENING STRANDS OF GOOEY SUBSTANCE LEAP FROM THE WEAPONS OF THE MOTH-MEN--WRAP THE WAYNE LIMOUSINE IN COCOON-LIKE FOLDS...
WE STOPPED IT COLD! NOW LET'S KNOCK WAYNE THE SAME WAY!
ZZZZT!

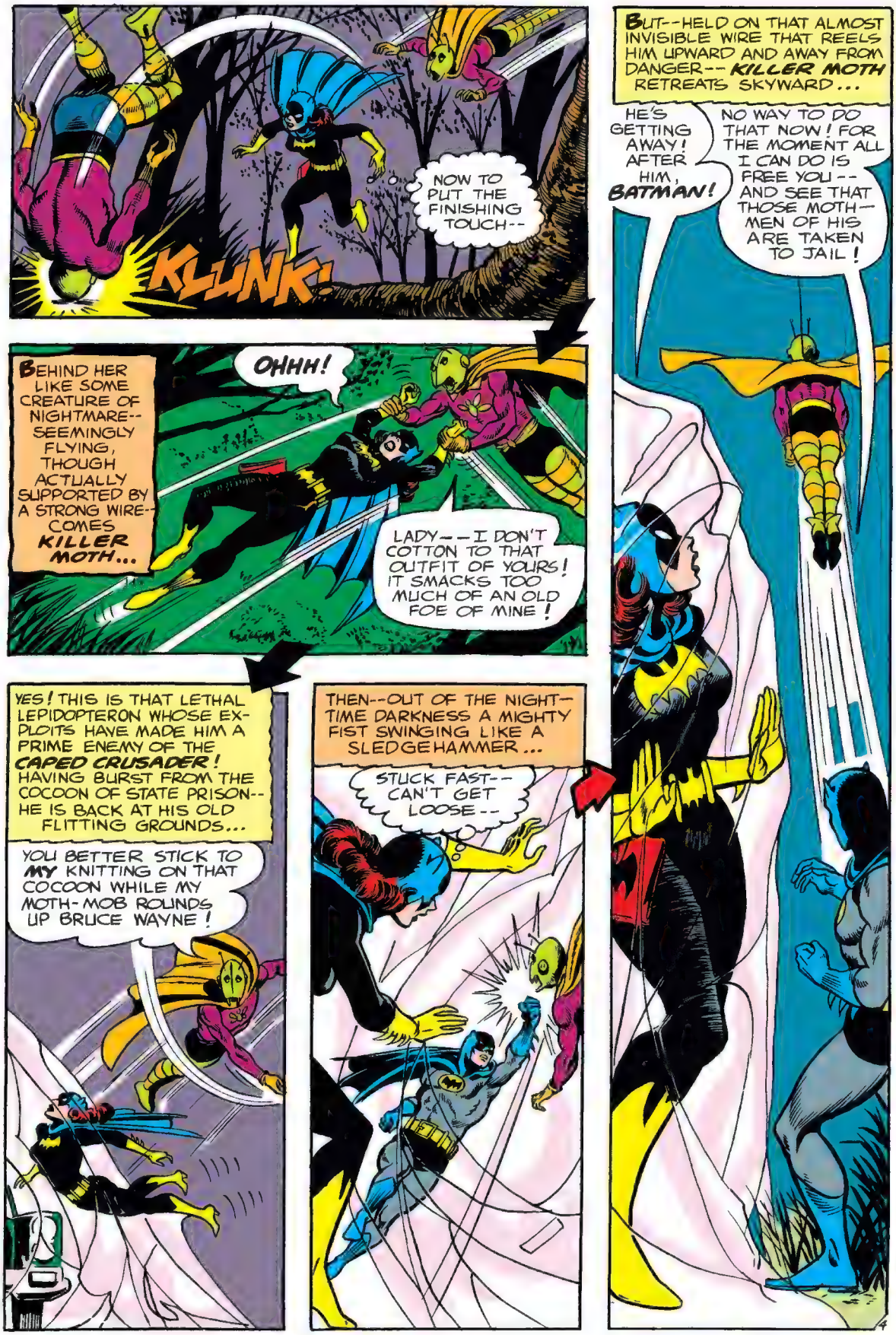

EVEN AS A DOOR OF THE LIMOUSINE IS OPENED AND MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE YANKED OUT..
OHHH! COSTUMED MEN GANGING UP ON THAT DRIVER! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!
SCREEE!

WHY--THAT'S BRUCE WAYNE THEY'RE ATTACKING--DADDY'S MILLIONAIRE FRIEND! HE'S ALWAYS REGARDED ME AS A MOUSEY SORT OF PERSON! I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE KNEW WHO IT WAS COMING TO RESCUE HIM! I'LL DISGUISE MY VOICE--SO HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT!

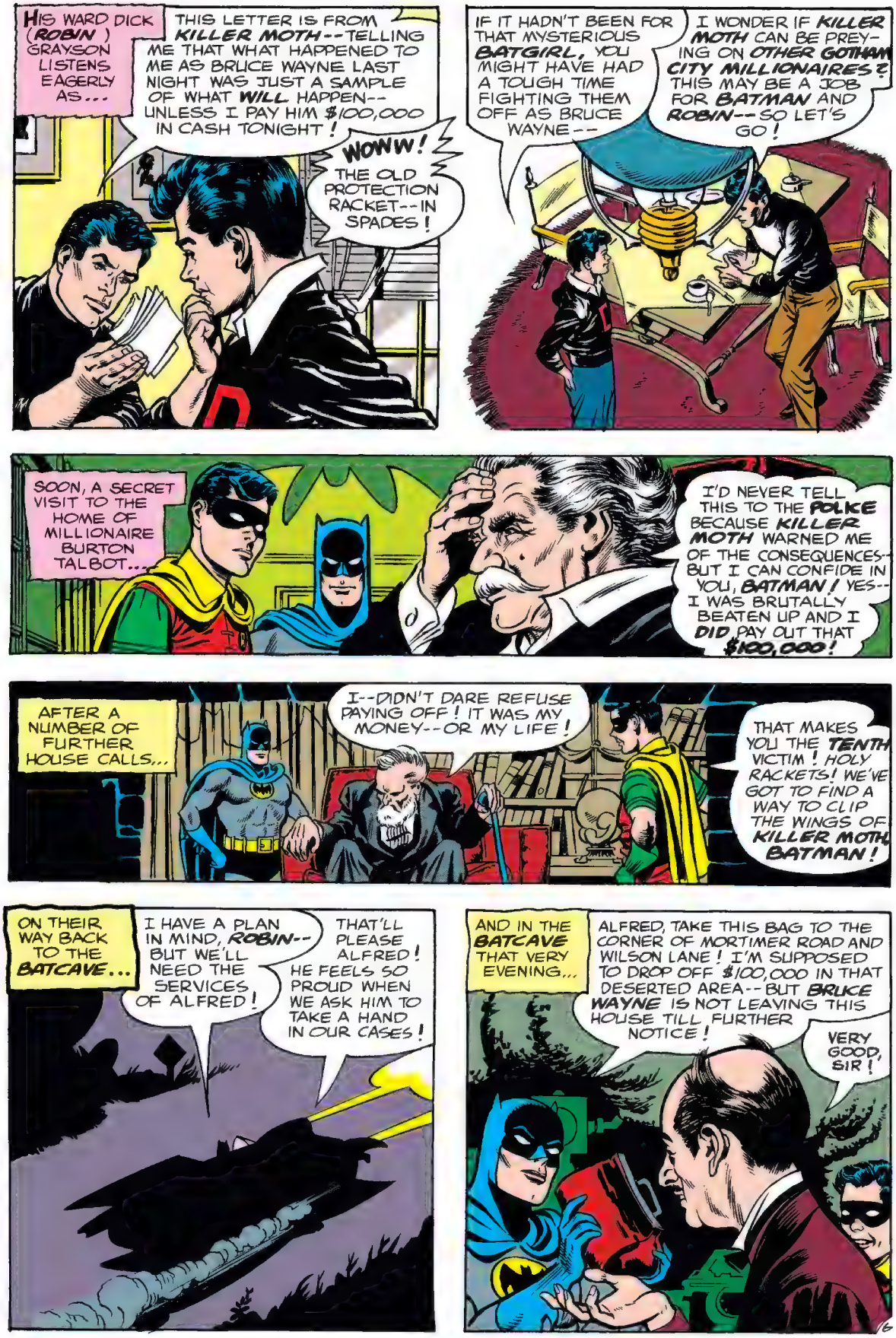
MAKE A RUN FOR IT, MR. WAYNE--BEFORE YOU GET HURT! BATGIRL WILL HANDLE THESE HUMAN MOTHS!
WHO'S THIS?

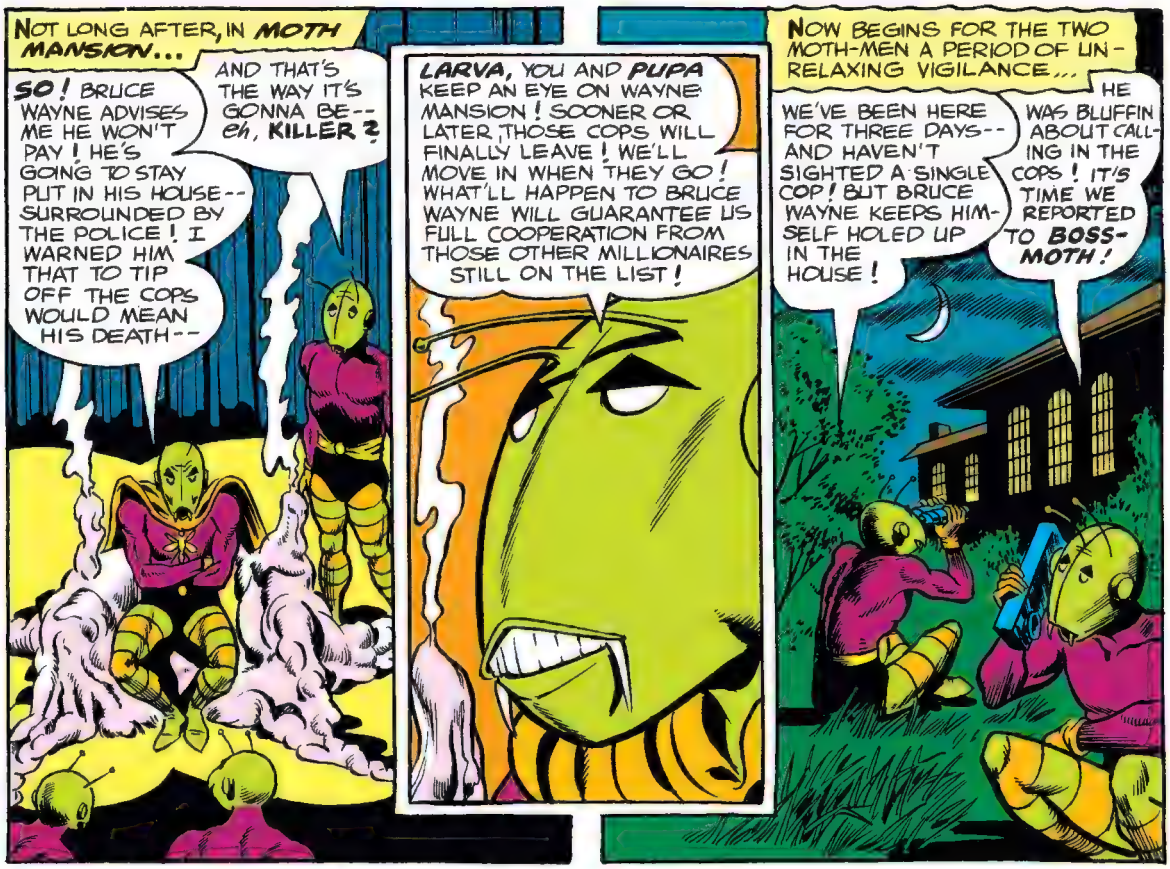
THAT'S A BREAK! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO RUN JUST FAR ENOUGH TO CHANGE INTO MY BATMAN COSTUME UNOBSERVED! THAT--er--NEW BATGIRL MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS SHE THINKS SHE IS!

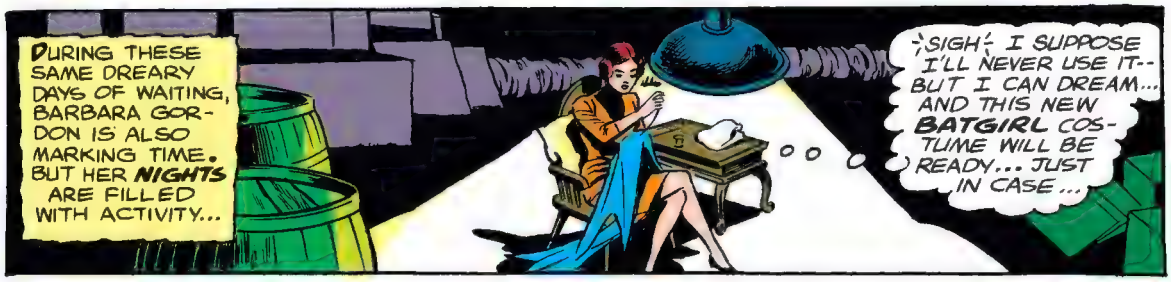

I'M A FIRST KYU JUDO EXPERT, BOYS--AS I'M WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE!
HEYY! WHATTA WE GOT HOLD OF HERE?
YA MEAN--WHAT'S GOT HOLD OF US!

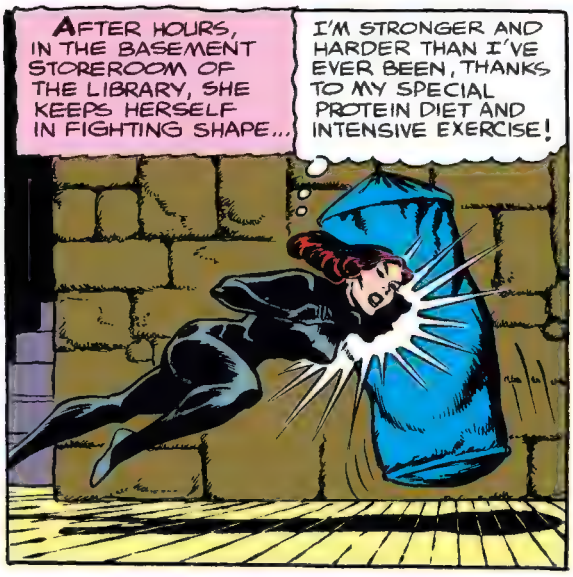

KLUNK!
NOW TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCH--
BEHIND HER LIKE SOME CREATURE OF NIGHTMARE--SEEMINGLY FLYING, THOUGH ACTUALLY SUPPORTED BY A STRONG WIRE--COMES KILLER MOTH...
OHHH!
LADY--I DON'T COTTON TO THAT OUTFIT OF YOURS! IT SMACKS TOO MUCH OF AN OLD FOE OF MINE!
YES! THIS IS THAT LETHAL LEPIDOPTERON WHOSE EXPLOITS HAVE MADE HIM A PRIME ENEMY OF THE CAPED CRUSADER! HAVING BURST FROM THE COCOON OF STATE PRISON--HE IS BACK AT HIS OLD FLITTING GROUNDS...
YOU BETTER STICK TO MY KNITTING ON THAT COCOON WHILE MY MOTH-MOB ROUNDS UP BRUCE WAYNE!
THEN--OUT OF THE NIGHT-TIME DARKNESS A MIGHTY FIST SWINGING LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER...
STUCK FAST--CAN'T GET LOOSE--
BUT--HELD ON THAT ALMOST INVISIBLE WIRE THAT REELS HIM UPWARD AND AWAY FROM DANGER--KILLER MOTH RETREATS SKYWARD...
HE'S GETTING AWAY! AFTER HIM, BATMAN!
NO WAY TO DO THAT NOW! FOR THE MOMENT ALL I CAN DO IS FREE YOU--AND SEE THAT THOSE MOTH-MEN OF HIS ARE TAKEN TO JAIL!

HER EYES SPARKLE! HER BREATH COMES FASTER! HER HEART THUMPS WITH ALARMING SPEED! BABS GORDON IS HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE--FULLY ALIVE TO THIS NEW EXCITEMENT AND DANGER--AND LOVING IT!...
BATMAN-- BRUCE WAYNE IS IN DEADLY DANGER! THOSE MOTH-MEN WERE ABOUT TO BEAT HIM UP WHEN I HAPPENED ALONG! KILLER MOTH IS BOUND TO TRY AGAIN...
I'LL TAKE PERSONAL CHARGE OF BRUCE WAYNE, MA'AM! BUT WHO ARE YOU? HOW COME YOU'RE WEARING THAT-- THAT BATGIRL COSTUME?
I WAS GOING TO THE POLICEMEN'S BALL-- BUT I CAN'T NOW! MY COSTUME'S A MESS! AS FOR MY SECRET IDENTITY--I'LL EXCHANGE MINE FOR YOURS...
NO DEAL!
I THOUGHT NOT!
FOR ALL I KNOW THIS MARKS THE DEBUT AND FAREWELL APPEARANCE OF BATGIRL! IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED...
NEXT DAY, DR. BARBARA GORDON TRIES TO LOSE HERSELF IN THE MUNDANE WORLD OF THE LIBRARY...
POWERS
NEW ART
J.J. COWES
Greene
I ALMOST WISH I D NEVER MADE THAT BATGIRL COSTUME! NOW MY LIFE SEEMS EMPTY AND HUMDRUM! I HOPE BATMAN IS GUARDING BRUCE WAYNE-- AND I WISH I WERE THERE TO HELP...
BATMAN, OF COURSE, IS BRUCE WAYNE--AND ON THIS SAME MORNING HE IS READING HIS MAIL WHEN...
HMMM--I THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT KILLER MOTH SUSPECTED BRUCE WAYNE WAS BATMAN-- BUT THIS LETTER EXPLAINS WHY BRUCE WAYNE WAS ATTACKED LAST NIGHT!
WELL? DON'T STOP NOW!

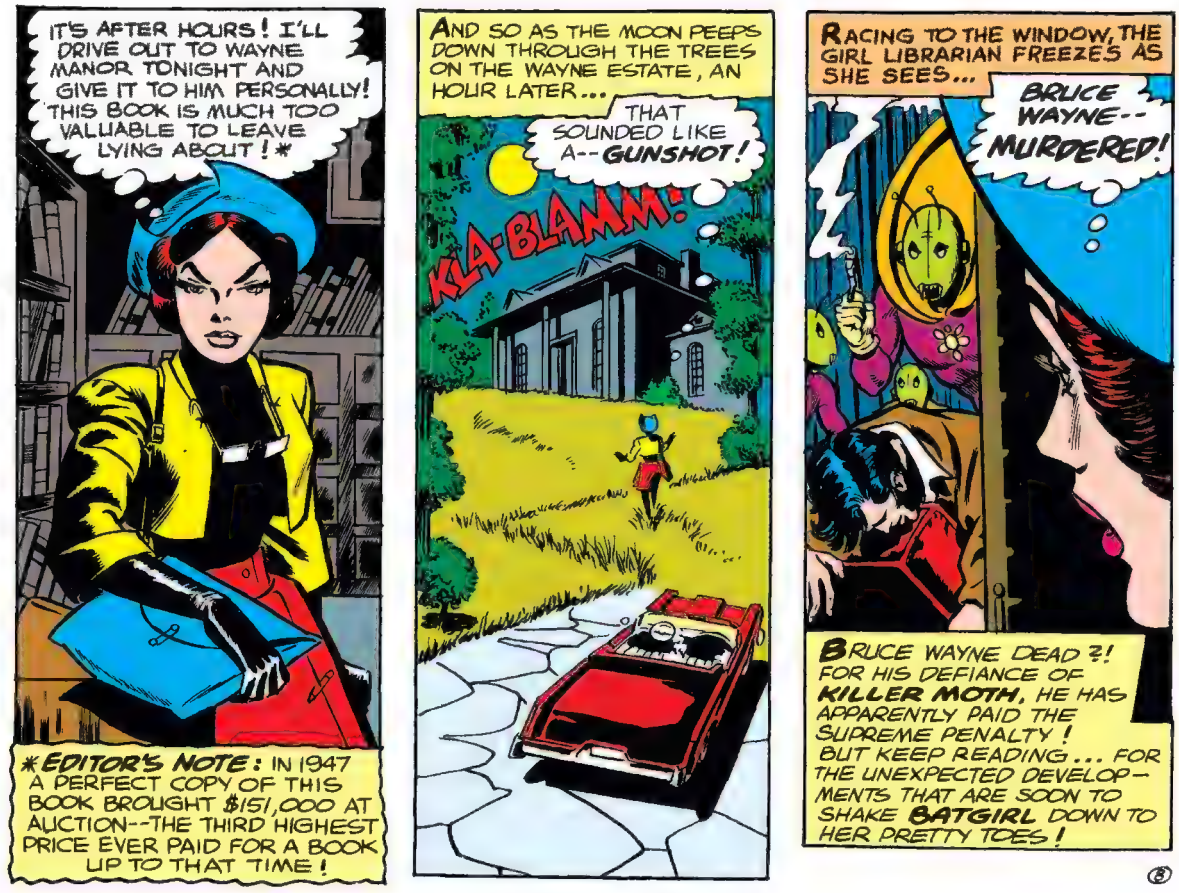

HIS WARD DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON LISTENS EAGERLY AS...
THIS LETTER IS FROM KILLER MOTH--TELLING ME THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AS BRUCE WAYNE LAST NIGHT WAS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN--UNLESS I PAY HIM $100,000 IN CASH TONIGHT!
WOWW! THE OLD PROTECTION RACKET--IN SPADES!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT MYSTERIOUS BATGIRL, YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A TOUGH TIME FIGHTING THEM OFF AS BRUCE WAYNE--
I WONDER IF KILLER MOTH CAN BE PREYING ON OTHER GOTHAM CITY MILLIONAIRES? THIS MAY BE A JOB FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN--SO LET'S GO!
SOON, A SECRET VISIT TO THE HOME OF MILLIONAIRE BURTON TALBOT...
I'D NEVER TELL THIS TO THE POLICE BECAUSE KILLER MOTH WARNED ME OF THE CONSEQUENCES--BUT I CAN CONFIDE IN YOU, BATMAN! YES--I WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN UP AND I DID PAY OUT THAT $100,000!
AFTER A NUMBER OF FURTHER HOUSE CALLS...
I--DIDN'T DARE REFUSE PAYING OFF! IT WAS MY MONEY--OR MY LIFE!
THAT MAKES YOU THE TENTH VICTIM! HOLY RACKETS! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO CLIP THE WINGS OF KILLER MOTH, BATMAN!
ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THE BATCAVE...
I HAVE A PLAN IN MIND, ROBIN--BUT WE'LL NEED THE SERVICES OF ALFRED!
THAT'LL PLEASE ALFRED! HE FEELS SO PROUD WHEN WE ASK HIM TO TAKE A HAND IN OUR CASES!
AND IN THE BATCAVE THAT VERY EVENING...
ALFRED, TAKE THIS BAG TO THE CORNER OF MORTIMER ROAD AND WILSON LANE! I'M SUPPOSED TO DROP OFF $100,000 IN THAT DESERTED AREA--BUT BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT LEAVING THIS HOUSE TILL FURTHER NOTICE!
VERY GOOD, SIR!


NOT LONG AFTER, IN MOTH MANSION...
SO! BRUCE WAYNE ADVISES ME HE WON'T PAY! HE'S GOING TO STAY PUT IN HIS HOUSE-- SURROUNDED BY THE POLICE! I WARNED HIM THAT TO TIP OFF THE COPS WOULD MEAN HIS DEATH--
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE-- eh, KILLER?
LARVA, YOU AND PUPA KEEP AN EYE ON WAYNE MANSION! SOONER OR LATER, THOSE COPS WILL FINALLY LEAVE! WE'LL MOVE IN WHEN THEY GO! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO BRUCE WAYNE WILL GUARANTEE US FULL COOPERATION FROM THOSE OTHER MILLIONAIRES STILL ON THE LIST!
NOW BEGINS FOR THE TWO MOTH-MEN A PERIOD OF UN-RELAXING VIGILANCE...
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR THREE DAYS-- AND HAVEN'T SIGHTED A SINGLE COP! BUT BRUCE WAYNE KEEPS HIMSELF HOLED UP IN THE HOUSE!
HE WAS BLUFFIN ABOUT CALLING IN THE COPS! IT'S TIME WE REPORTED TO BOSS-MOTH!


DURING THESE SAME DREARY DAYS OF WAITING, BARBARA GORDON IS ALSO MARKING TIME. BUT HER NIGHTS ARE FILLED WITH ACTIVITY...
SIGH! I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER USE IT-- BUT I CAN DREAM... AND THIS NEW BATGIRL COSTUME WILL BE READY... JUST IN CASE...


AFTER HOURS, IN THE BASEMENT STOREROOM OF THE LIBRARY, SHE KEEPS HERSELF IN FIGHTING SHAPE...
I'M STRONGER AND HARDER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN, THANKS TO MY SPECIAL PROTEIN DIET AND INTENSIVE EXERCISE!

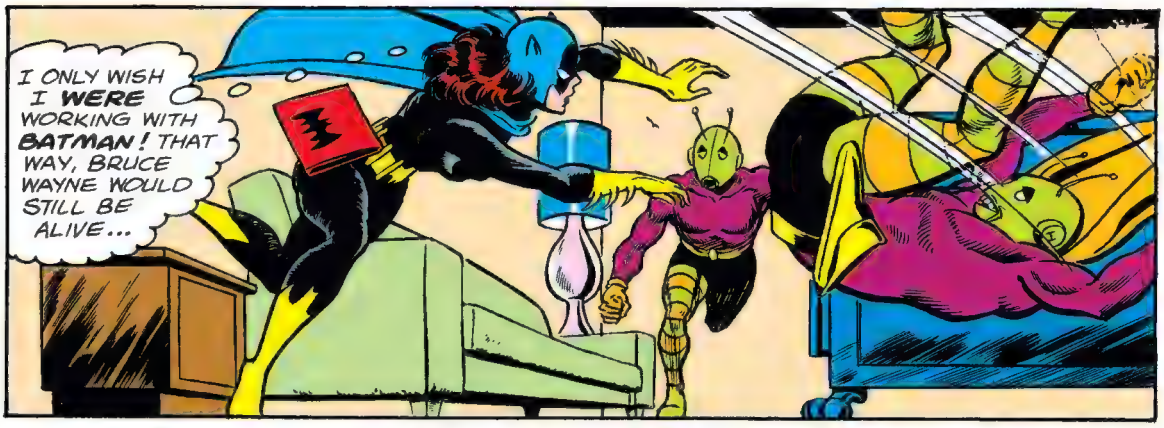
BUT--ALAS FOR DREAMS AND EXPECTATIONS OF HIGH ADVENTURE!-- CRASS EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES MUST ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE.
THIS RARE EDITION OF THE BAY PSALM BOOK WHICH BRUCE WAYNE HAS BEEN AFTER ME TO GET HIM JUST ARRIVED SPECIAL DELIVERY! HE COLLECTS RARE BOOKS-- AND SOMETIMES MY CONTACTS HELP LOCATE THEM FOR HIM!

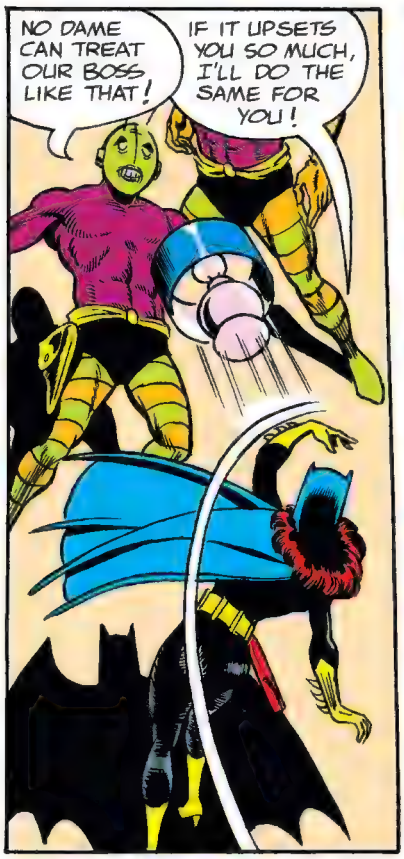

IT'S AFTER HOURS! I'LL DRIVE OUT TO WAYNE MANOR TONIGHT AND GIVE IT TO HIM PERSONALLY! THIS BOOK IS MUCH TOO VALUABLE TO LEAVE LYING ABOUT!*
*EDITOR'S NOTE: IN 1947 A PERFECT COPY OF THIS BOOK BROUGHT $151,000 AT AUCTION--THE THIRD HIGHEST PRICE EVER PAID FOR A BOOK UP TO THAT TIME!
AND SO AS THE MOON PEEPS DOWN THROUGH THE TREES ON THE WAYNE ESTATE, AN HOUR LATER...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A--GUNSHOT!
KLA-BLAMM!
RACING TO THE WINDOW, THE GIRL LIBRARIAN FREEZES AS SHE SEES...
BRUCE WAYNE--MURDERED!
BRUCE WAYNE DEAD?! FOR HIS DEFIANCE OF KILLER MOTH, HE HAS APPARENTLY PAID THE SUPREME PENALTY! BUT KEEP READING... FOR THE UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE SOON TO SHAKE BATGIRL DOWN TO HER PRETTY TOES!

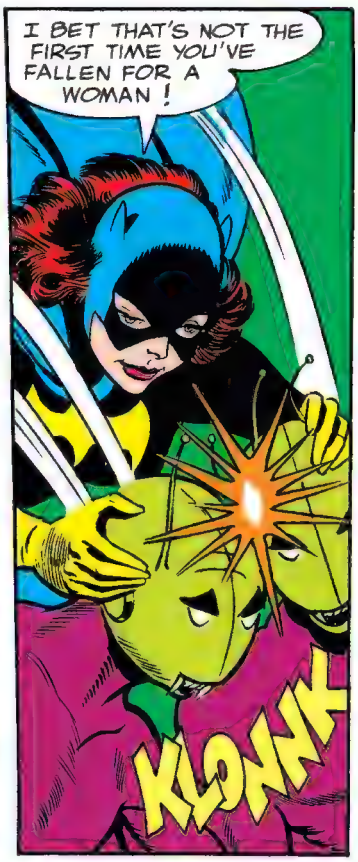
BATGIRL

MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT of BATGIRL-- PART 2

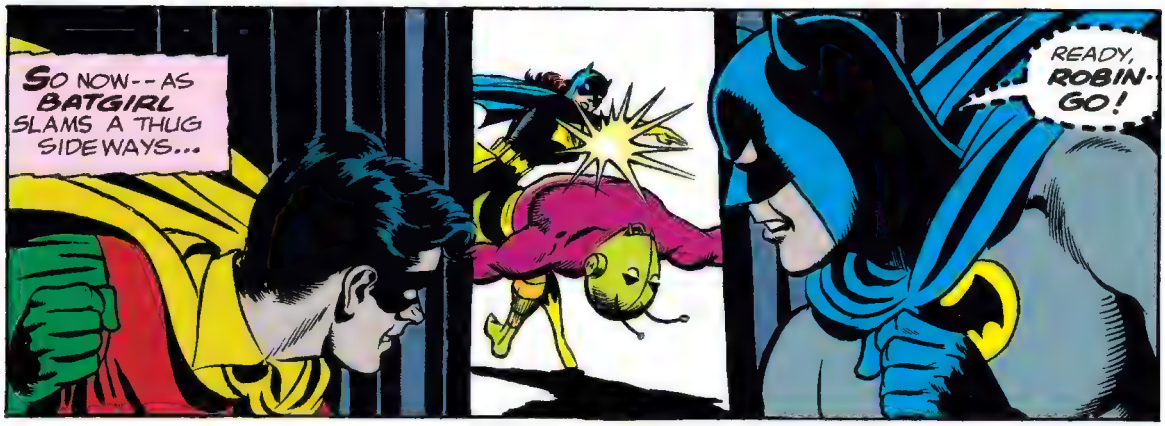
SURGING FURY FILLS THE HEART OF THE LIBRARIAN EVEN AS TEARS BRIM OVER IN HER EYES! SHE HAS WORKED FOR THIS MOMENT WHEN SHE CAN ONCE AGAIN APPEAR AS **BATGIRL** -- BUT NOW ALL THE PLEASURE HAS GONE OUT OF IT!

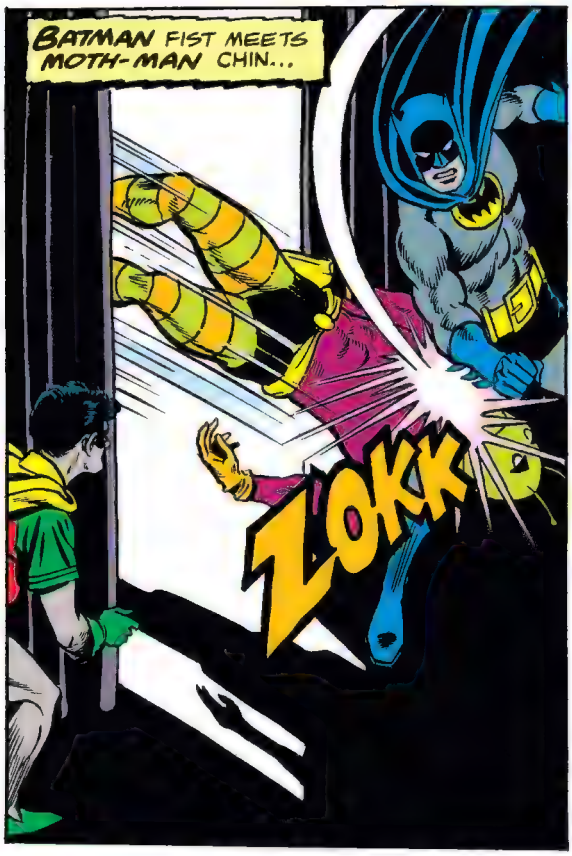

I ONLY WISH I WERE WORKING WITH BATMAN! THAT WAY, BRUCE WAYNE WOULD STILL BE ALIVE...

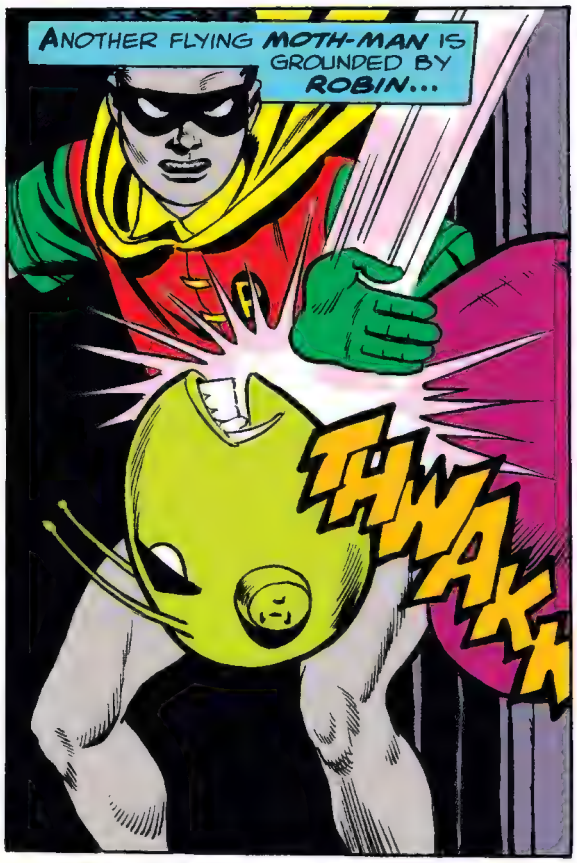

NO DAME CAN TREAT OUR BOSS LIKE THAT!
IF IT UPSETS YOU SO MUCH, I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!

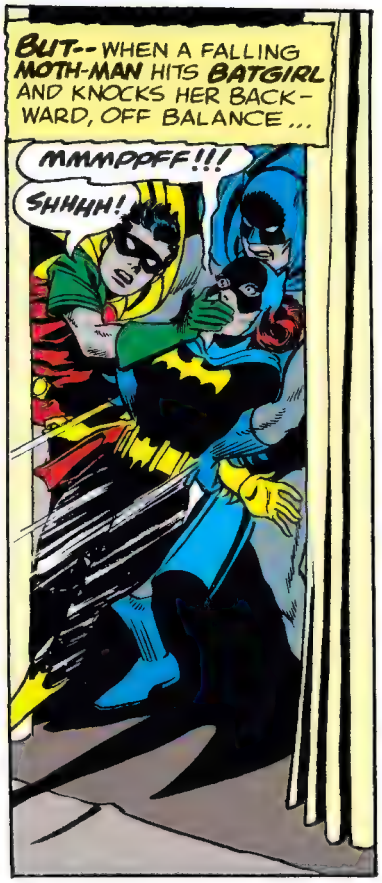

I BET THAT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE FALLEN FOR A WOMAN!
KLONK

CONCEALED IN THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE ROOM, BATMAN AND ROBIN STARE AT EACH OTHER IN INCREASING DISMAY...
HOLY INTERFERENCE! SHE'S RUINING ALL OUR PLANS! BESIDES--SHE MAKES TERRIBLE PUNS!
STILL--WE CAN'T LET BATGIRL FIGHT OUR BATTLES, NOW CAN WE?


SO NOW--AS BATGIRL SLAMS A THUG SIDEWAYS...
READY, ROBIN--GO!


BATMAN FIST MEETS MOTH-MAN CHIN...
ZOKK

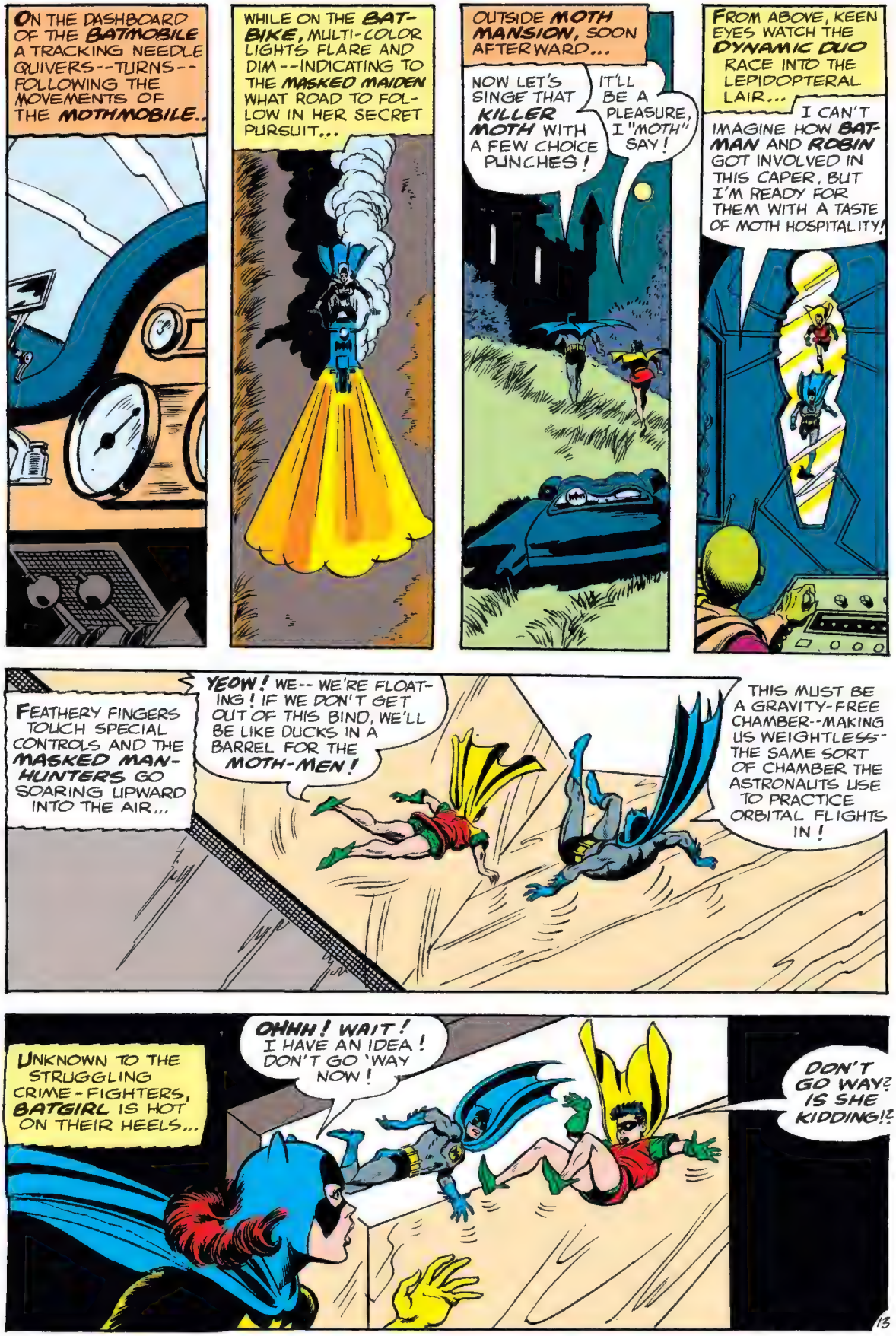

ANOTHER FLYING MOTH-MAN IS GROUNDED BY ROBIN...
THWAKK

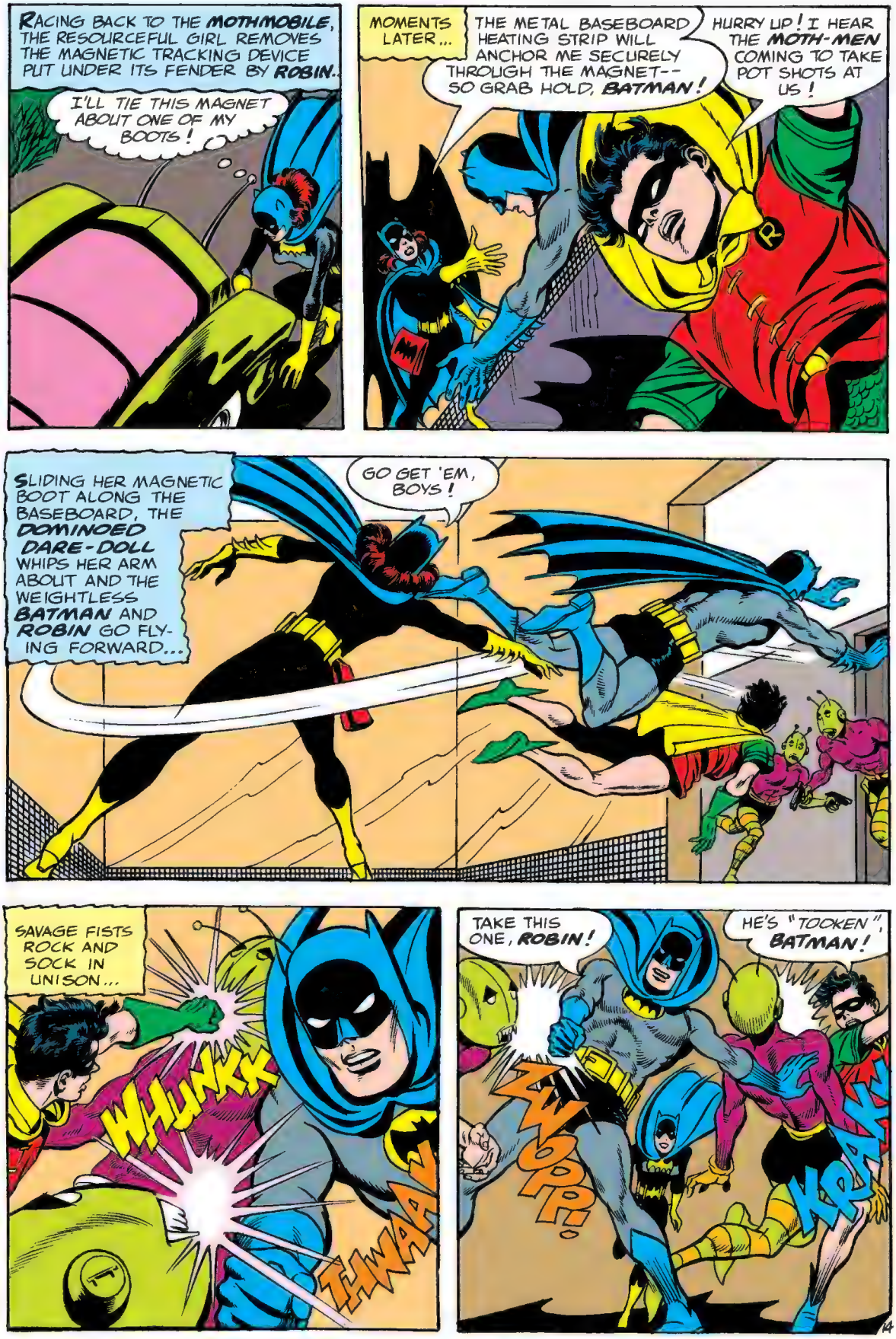

BUT-- WHEN A FALLING MOTH-MAN HITS BATGIRL AND KNOCKS HER BACK-WARD, OFF BALANCE...
MMMPPFF!!!
SHHHH!

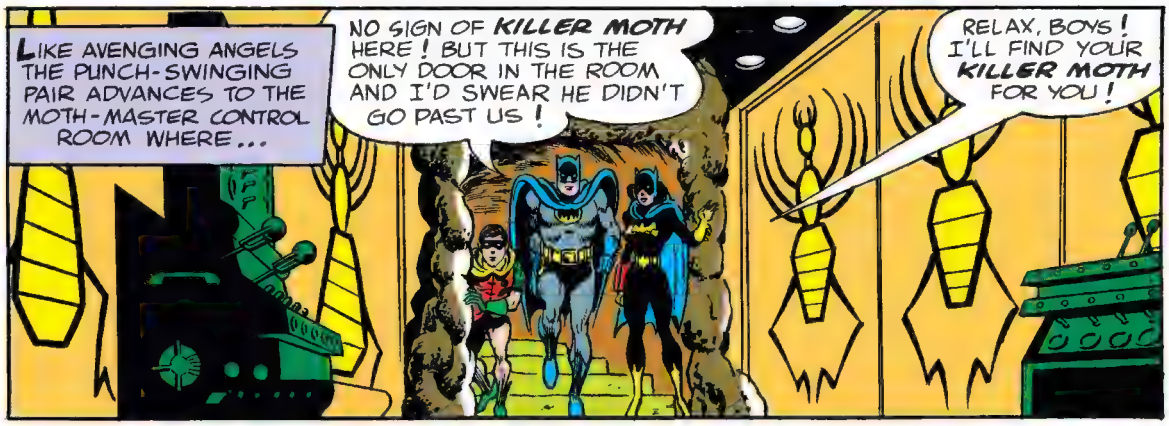
FURY SHAKES THE BRAVE BEAUTY AS SHE RECOGNIZES HER ASSAILANTS...
SHE MUST HAVE KNOCKED HERSELF OUT! LET'S CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

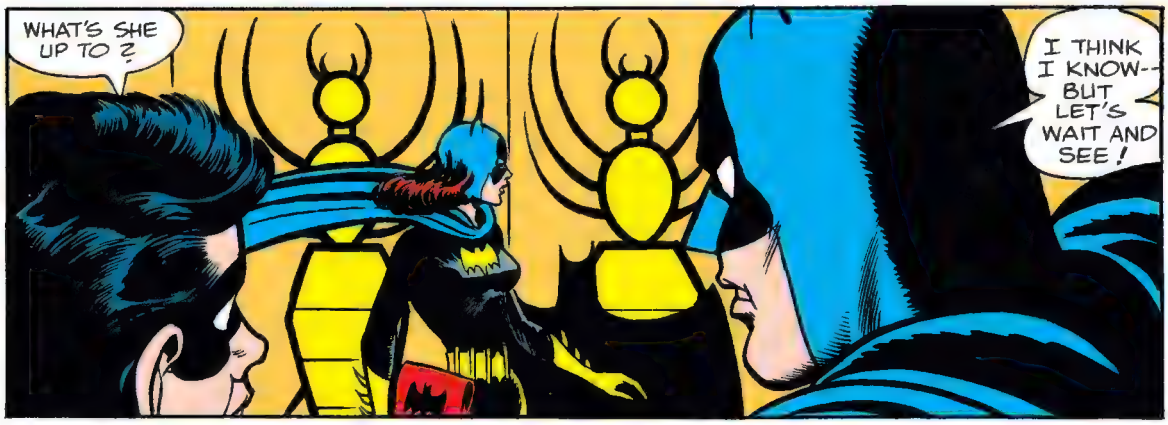
AND WHEN THE ECHO OF RACING FEET FADES IN THE AIR...
WELL!! YOU TWO CERTAINLY WERE A BIG HELP! YOU LET KILLER MOTH GET AWAY! YOU'VE SPOILED EVERY-THING! AND-- AND P-POOR BRUCE WAYNE...
NO, BATGIRL! WE DIDN'T SPOIL ANYTHING-- YOU DID!!

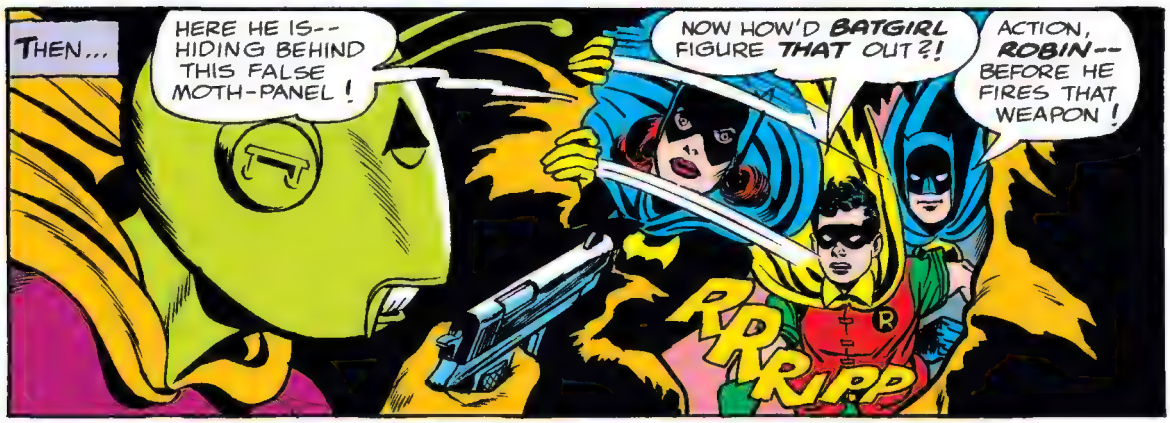
WHA-- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WE PLANNED ALL THIS IN ORDER TO FOLLOW KILLER MOTH TO HIS HIDE-OUT-- SO WE COULD NOT ONLY CAPTURE HIM BUT ALSO RECOVER THE MILLION DOLLARS HE EXTORTED FROM SOME OF GOTHAM CITY'S WEALTHIEST MEN!
BRUCE WAYNE IS SAFE AND SOUND! WITH HIS CO-OPERATION WE RIGGED UP THIS LIFE-LIKE DUMMY TO FOOL THE MOTH-MEN! WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GO TO THEM SO WE ARRANGED MATTERS SO THEY'D COME TO US!
OHHH! I'VE SPOILED EVERY-THING!
AWW, CHEER UP, BATGIRL! ALL ISN'T LOST YET! WE CAN STILL GO AFTER KILLER MOTH! YOU SEE--I PLANTED A TRACKING DEVICE UNDER THE FENDER OF THE MOTHMOBILE!
I'M GOING ALONG WITH YOU--
NO, BATGIRL! THIS IS A CASE FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN! I'M SORRY--BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN'T WORRY OUR-SELVES ABOUT A GIRL...
AS THE BATMOBILE ROARS OFF, A RAGING YOUNG TIGRESS YANKS A SPECIAL MOTOR BIKE FROM THE TRUNK OF HER SPORTS CAR...
WORRY ABOUT A GIRL, eh? HAH! IF THEY THINK THEY CAN CUT ME OFF FROM WHERE THE ACTION IS, THEY'RE MISTAKEN! I RESTYLED THIS MOTOR BIKE FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY!
FAR AHEAD OF THE BAT-MOBILE, THE MOTH-MOBILE STREAKS TOWARD THE SECURITY OF MOTH MANSION...
BRUCE WAYNE IS DEAD! MY SCHEME WILL BE SURE-FIRE NOW! NO OTHER MILLIONAIRE WILL DARE DEFY ME! WHY--I MAY EVEN "UP" THE ANTE--DEMAND $200,000!
12

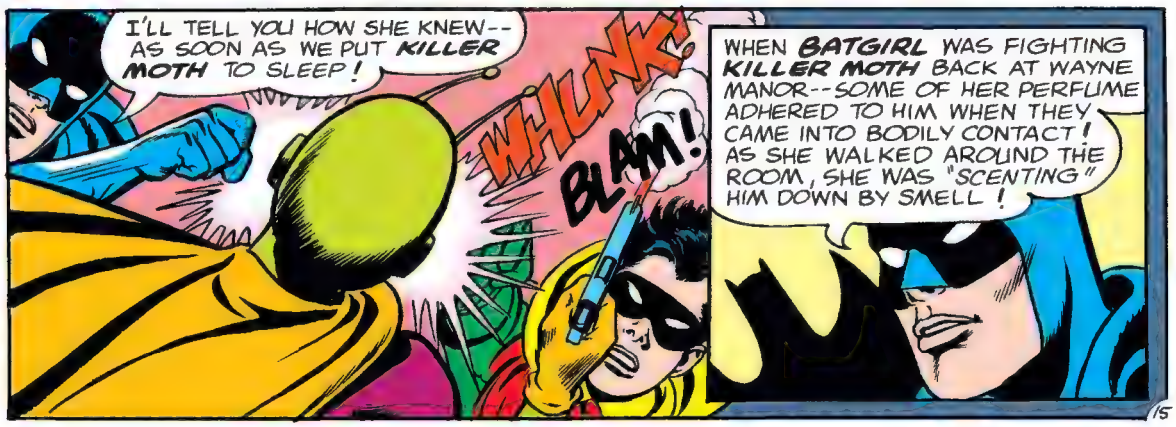

ON THE DASHBOARD OF THE BATMOBILE A TRACKING NEEDLE QUIVERS--TURNS--FOLLOWING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE MOTHMOBILE..
WHILE ON THE BAT-BIKE, MULTI-COLOR LIGHTS FLARE AND DIM--INDICATING TO THE MASKED MAIDEN WHAT ROAD TO FOLLOW IN HER SECRET PURSUIT...
OUTSIDE MOTH MANSION, SOON AFTERWARD...
NOW LET'S SINGE THAT KILLER MOTH WITH A FEW CHOICE PUNCHES!
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, I "MOTH" SAY!
FROM ABOVE, KEEN EYES WATCH THE DYNAMIC DUO RACE INTO THE LEPIDOPTERAL LAIR...
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN GOT INVOLVED IN THIS CAPER, BUT I'M READY FOR THEM WITH A TASTE OF MOTH HOSPITALITY!
FEATHERY FINGERS TOUCH SPECIAL CONTROLS AND THE MASKED MAN-HUNTERS GO SOARING UPWARD INTO THE AIR...
YEOW! WE-- WE'RE FLOATING! IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF THIS BIND, WE'LL BE LIKE DUCKS IN A BARREL FOR THE MOTH-MEN!
THIS MUST BE A GRAVITY-FREE CHAMBER--MAKING US WEIGHTLESS--THE SAME SORT OF CHAMBER THE ASTRONAUTS USE TO PRACTICE ORBITAL FLIGHTS IN!
UNKNOWN TO THE STRUGGLING CRIME-FIGHTERS, BATGIRL IS HOT ON THEIR HEELS...
OHHH! WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA! DON'T GO 'WAY NOW!
DON'T GO WAY? IS SHE KIDDING!?
13


RACING BACK TO THE MOTHMOBILE, THE RESOURCEFUL GIRL REMOVES THE MAGNETIC TRACKING DEVICE PUT UNDER ITS FENDER BY ROBIN.
I'LL TIE THIS MAGNET ABOUT ONE OF MY BOOTS!
MOMENTS LATER...
THE METAL BASEBOARD HEATING STRIP WILL ANCHOR ME SECURELY THROUGH THE MAGNET-- SO GRAB HOLD, BATMAN!
HURRY UP! I HEAR THE MOTH-MEN COMING TO TAKE POT SHOTS AT US!
SLIDING HER MAGNETIC BOOT ALONG THE BASEBOARD, THE DOMINOED DARE-DOLL WHIPS HER ARM ABOUT AND THE WEIGHTLESS BATMAN AND ROBIN GO FLYING FORWARD...
GO GET 'EM, BOYS!
SAVAGE FISTS ROCK AND SOCK IN UNISON...
WHUNKK
THWAAZ
TAKE THIS ONE, ROBIN!
HE'S "TOOKEN", BATMAN!
ZWOPP!
KRAAK


LIKE AVENGING ANGELS THE PUNCH-SWINGING PAIR ADVANCES TO THE MOTH-MASTER CONTROL ROOM WHERE...
NO SIGN OF KILLER MOTH HERE! BUT THIS IS THE ONLY DOOR IN THE ROOM AND I'D SWEAR HE DIDN'T GO PAST US!
RELAX, BOYS! I'LL FIND YOUR KILLER MOTH FOR YOU!


WHAT'S SHE UP TO?
I THINK I KNOW-- BUT LET'S WAIT AND SEE!


THEN...
HERE HE IS-- HIDING BEHIND THIS FALSE MOTH-PANEL!
NOW HOW'D BATGIRL FIGURE THAT OUT?!
ACTION, ROBIN-- BEFORE HE FIRES THAT WEAPON!
RRRIPP


I'LL TELL YOU HOW SHE KNEW-- AS SOON AS WE PUT KILLER MOTH TO SLEEP!
WHUNK
BLAM!
WHEN BATGIRL WAS FIGHTING KILLER MOTH BACK AT WAYNE MANOR--SOME OF HER PERFUME ADHERED TO HIM WHEN THEY CAME INTO BODILY CONTACT! AS SHE WALKED AROUND THE ROOM, SHE WAS "SCENTING" HIM DOWN BY SMELL!
15

NICE DEDUCTION, BATMAN! BUT I'LL BET YOU WERE MIGHTY GLAD TO SEE ME WHEN YOU AND ROBIN WERE UP IN THE AIR IN THAT GRAVITY-FREE CHAMBER!
WELL--SINCE YOU BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP--I COULD HAVE ESCAPED--AND WAS ABOUT TO WHEN YOU APPEARED--BY FIRING MY LASER TORCH, USING THE PRINCIPLE OF ACTION AND REACTION TO REACH SAFETY!

IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER KILLER MOTH AND HIS MOB HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED AND THEIR MILLION DOLLARS EXTORTION MONEY RETURNED TO THE VICTIMS...
LOOKS AS IF YOU HAVE A NEW MEMBER OF THE TEAM, BATMAN! OR WILL SHE PROVE TO BE A CRIME-FIGHTING RIVAL?
I'LL WELCOME HER AID, COMMISSIONER GORDON--WHEN AND WHERE THE OCCASION ARISES! FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO ANYBODY!

STILL LATER, IN THE GORDON HOME...
THAT BATGIRL SURE IS TOPS IN MY BOOK! HARRUMPH! TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T BE A LITTLE MORE LIKE HER, BABS!
IF DAD ONLY KNEW!
The End
16

BATGIRL

BATGIRL
YEAR ONE
IN GOD WE TRUST
LIBERTY
1947
MM
AL '02
NO. 4 MAY 03
scott beatty · chuck dixon · marcos martin · alvaro lopez

This may be the dumbest thing I've ever done.
Grand Avenue rushes up to meet me.
I'm breathless.
I'm terrified.

I'm happier than I've ever been.
For a few seconds.
It's two-ton test line.
No way it broke with my measly one-ten pounds.
Someone cut it.
Not that it's going to make any difference when I hit the sidewalk.

I'm seeing pretty clearly that I should have bought a bungee.
Unnh!
I HAVE YOU!
uff!
woo.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
DID YOU SEE WHO CUT MY LINE?
uh-- BATMAN CUT IT--
HANG ON, I'M--
BATMAN?
Wunh!

I'm in the grip of gravity again.
Now I can hear the horns of taxis on the street.
That was all so pointless.
What am I doing here?
OOP!
Big Bad Bat cuts my line and then saves me.
Is this some kind of test?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO DO THIS.
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE?

YOU WERE AT TERMINAL VELOCITY.
THAT JUMPLINE YOU WERE USING HAS NO GIVE.
IT WOULD HAVE SLICED YOUR FINGERS OFF OR PULLED YOUR ARMS FROM THEIR SOCKETS.

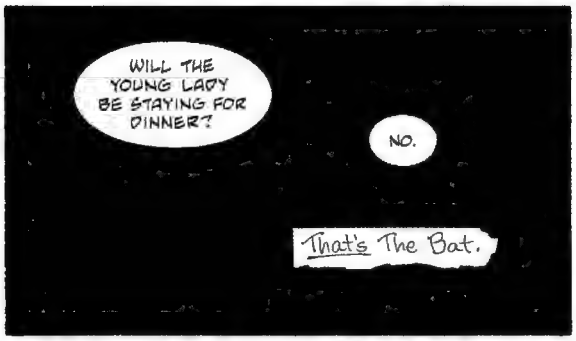
BATGIRL DOESN'T KNOW THAT. SHE'S NEW AT THIS.

DON'T CALL HER THAT.
DON'T EVER CALL HER THAT AGAIN.

Is he strict.
YES...
THANKS FOR TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE, ANYWAY.

WHY DON'T YOU GO EASY ON THE..
FSSSSSS

--AS I FEARED. YOUR LITTLE SECRET SOCIETY IS GROWING...
An English accent?


WILL THE YOUNG LADY BE STAYING FOR DINNER?
NO.
That's The Bat.

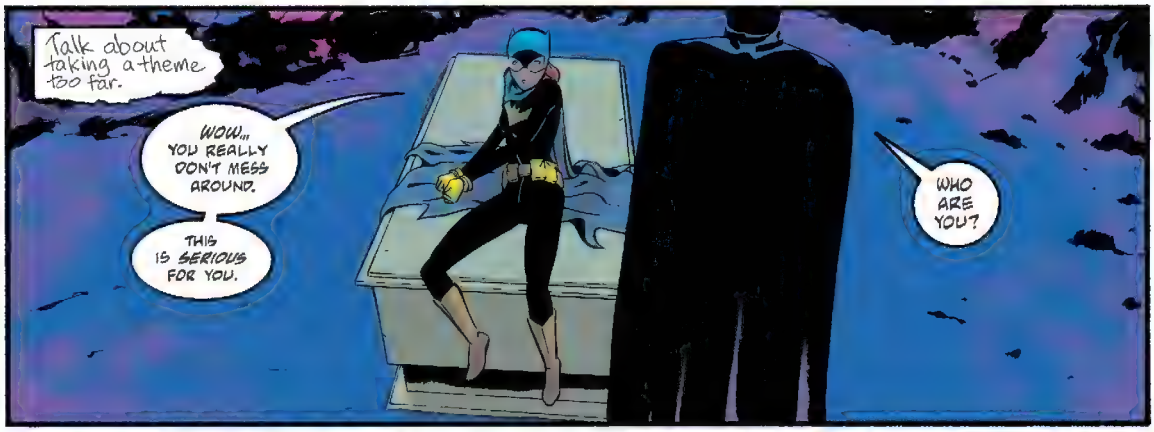
THEN I SHALL RETURN TO MY DUTIES... ELSEWHERE.
Batman and Robin... and Jeeves?

YOU THINK IT WAS OKAY BRINGING HER HERE?
That's the kid.
Here? Where here?

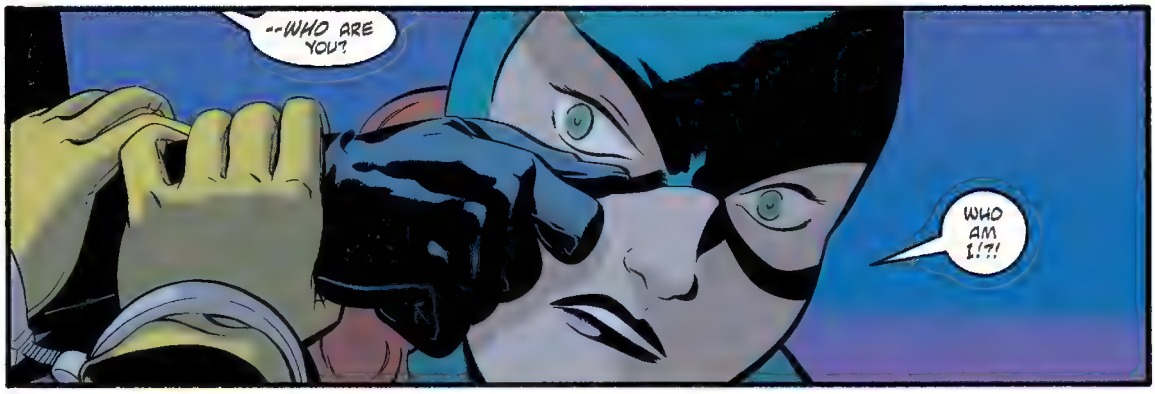
YES.
Someplace BIG. Lots of echoes.

I JUST HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

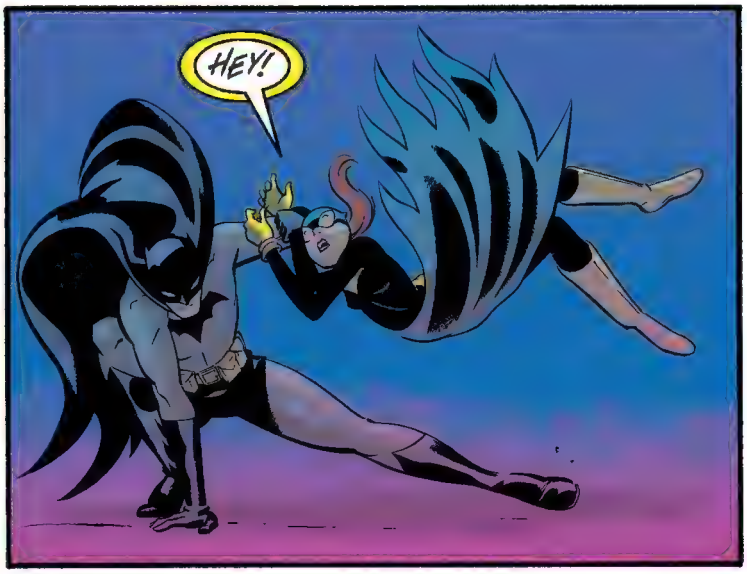
WELCOME TO OUR LAIR.
I was right. Batman is rich.
And possibly a little crazy.
IN GOD WE TRUST
LIBERTY
1947
J

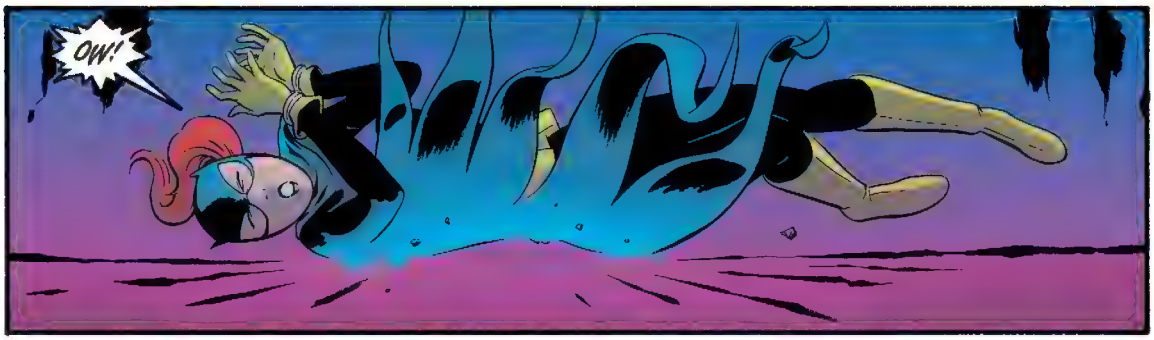

Talk about taking a theme too far.
WOW... YOU REALLY DON'T MESS AROUND.
THIS IS SERIOUS FOR YOU.
WHO ARE YOU?

JEEZ LOUISE, IS THAT A CRAY MAIN-FRAME?
I SAID--


--WHO ARE YOU?
WHO AM I!?!

WHO ARE YOU?!
AND WHAT IS THIS PLACE? SOME RETRO BOMB SHELTER?
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU BRING ME?


HEY!


OW!

IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, I SWEAR I'LL SCREAM.

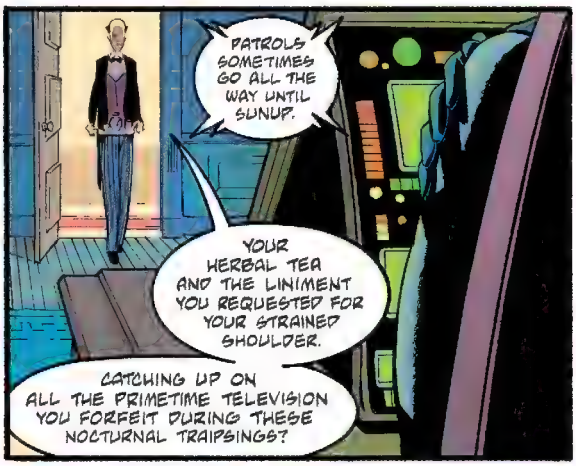
WATCH HER.
GOING BACK OUT?

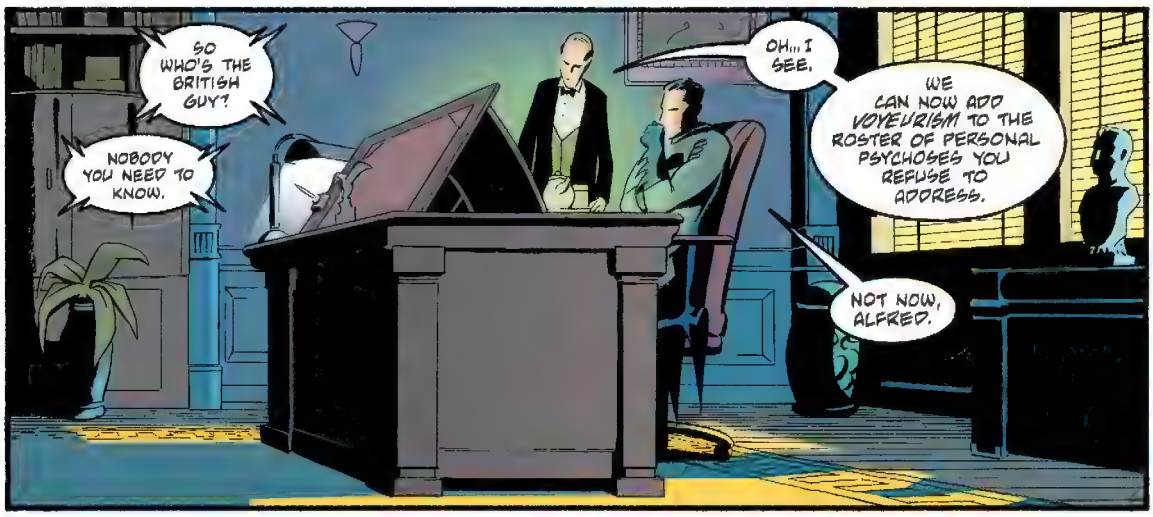
THIS CITY DOESN'T PROTECT ITSELF.
MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TOUCH ANYTHING.

LOOKS LIKE YOU AND I GET TO HOLD THE FORT, BATGIRL.
HELP YOU UP?
I CAN DO IT MYSELF...
AND I'LL TELL YOU LIKE I TOLD HIM, PIXIE BOOTS...

IF YOU TRY ANYTHING I'LL SCREAM.

WHEN WILL YOUR BOSS BE BACK?
HE'S NOT MY BOSS. I'M HIS PARTNER. AND IT COULD BE A COUPLE HOURS... MAYBE MORE.


PATROLS SOMETIMES GO ALL THE WAY UNTIL SUNUP.
YOUR HERBAL TEA AND THE LINIMENT YOU REQUESTED FOR YOUR STRAINED SHOULDER.
CATCHING UP ON ALL THE PRIMETIME TELEVISION YOU FORFEIT DURING THESE NOCTURNAL TRAIPSINGS?


SO WHO'S THE BRITISH GUY?
NOBODY YOU NEED TO KNOW.
OH... I SEE.
WE CAN NOW ADD VOYEURISM TO THE ROSTER OF PERSONAL PSYCHOSES YOU REFUSE TO ADDRESS.
NOT NOW, ALFRED.

I WILL ADMIT MY COMPLICITY IN YOUNG MASTER RICHARD'S INVOLVEMENT IN THIS BIT OF FAMILY ENTERPRISE...
BUT I WILL NOT CONDONE NOR REMAIN SILENT WHILE YOU ENGAGE IN OPEN RECRUITMENT AND ENABLE OTHER YOUNG VIGILANTES.
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS MORALITY PLAY UNFOLDING BENEATH US?

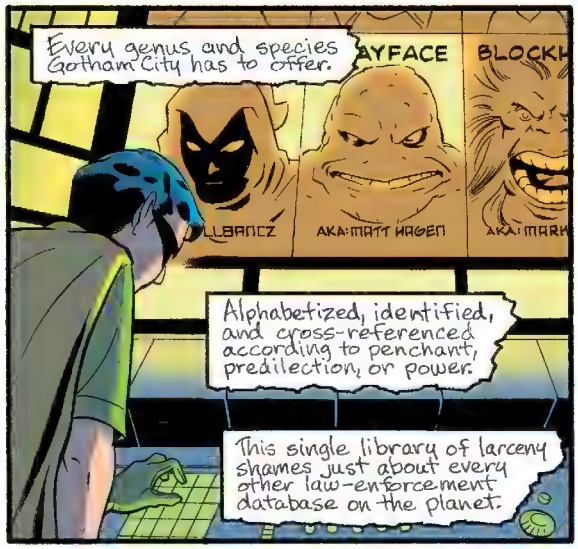
IT'S A CLASSIC.
GOOD COP. BAD COP.

AND I TRUST THAT MASTER RICHARD IS THE 'GOOD COP'?
WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK HE WEARS THE BRIGHT COLORS?

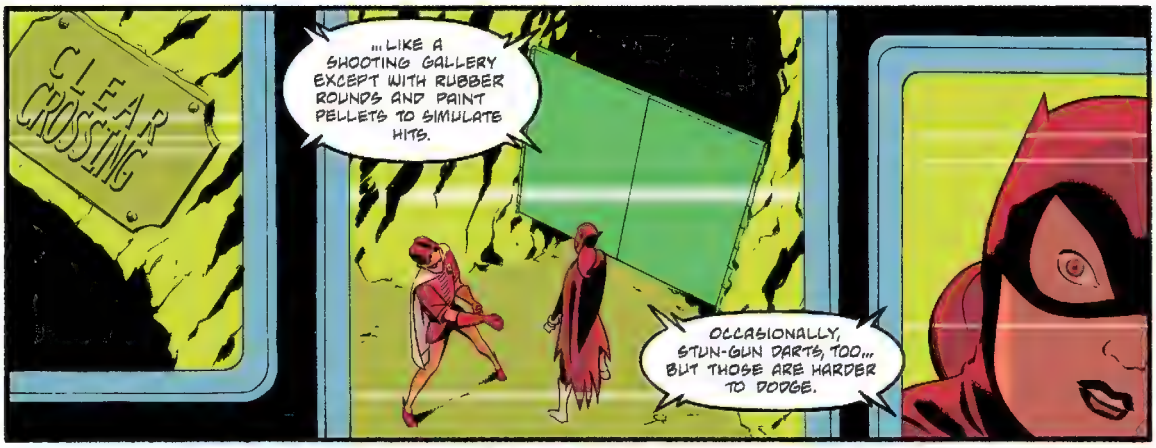
Hydrogen-fueled power generator.
Oh-kay.
AND IT'S ALL ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, TOO.

THE BIG BIRD DEFINITELY SOARS, BUT I KINDA PREFER THE WHIRLY-BATS.
NOW THAT'S FLYING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS.
This place is outfitted for war.
A war on crime.

SERIOUSLY, FANGS.
I'm just stalking muggers and two-bit holdup guys.
These guys are hunting the REAL monsters.

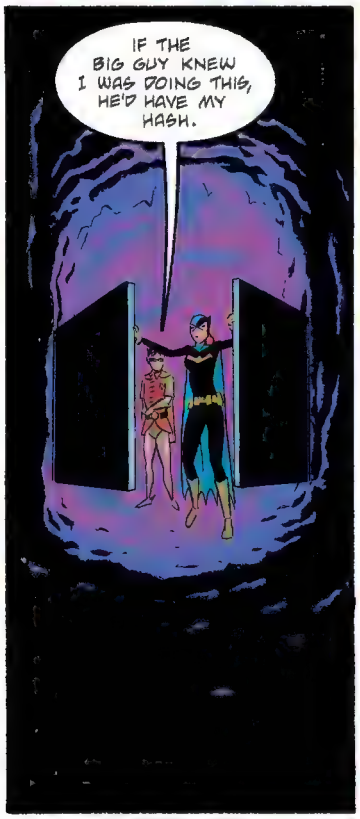

Every genus and species Gotham City has to offer.
AYFACE
BLOCKH
LLBANCZ
AKA: MATT HAGEN
AKA: MARK
Alphabetized, identified, and cross-referenced according to penchant, predilection, or power.
This single library of larceny shames just about every other law-enforcement database on the planet.

THIS CLOWN'S NO JOKE.
IF YOU SEE HIM, RUN THE OTHER WAY.
Who are these guys?

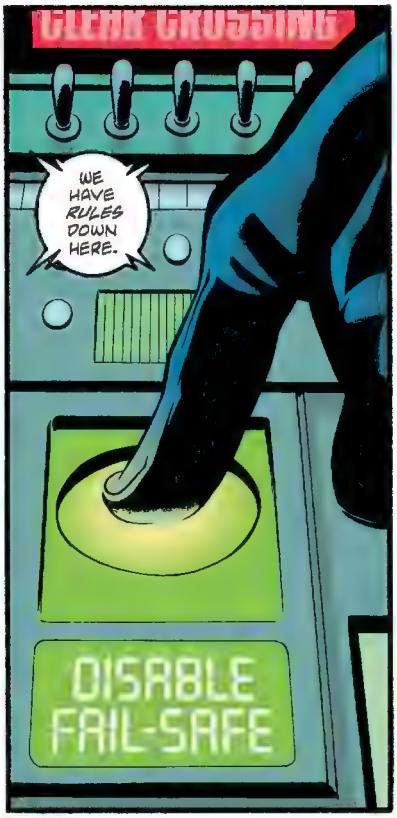

CLEAR CROSSING
...LIKE A SHOOTING GALLERY EXCEPT WITH RUBBER ROUNDS AND PAINT PELLETS TO SIMULATE HITS.
OCCASIONALLY, STUN-GUN DARTS, TOO... BUT THOSE ARE HARDER TO DODGE.

IF I COULD TRUST YOU TO BE GOOD, YOU MIGHT TRY IT OUT.
CLEAR CROSSING
MAYBE SHOW ME IF YOU'VE *REALLY* GOT THE STUFF TO DO WHAT WE DO.
I MAY *SURPRISE* YOU, PIXIE BOOTS.

OKAY THEN... BUT THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, OKAY?


IF THE BIG GUY KNEW I WAS DOING THIS, HE'D HAVE MY HASH.

ORDERS ARE ORDERS.
CLEAR CROSSING

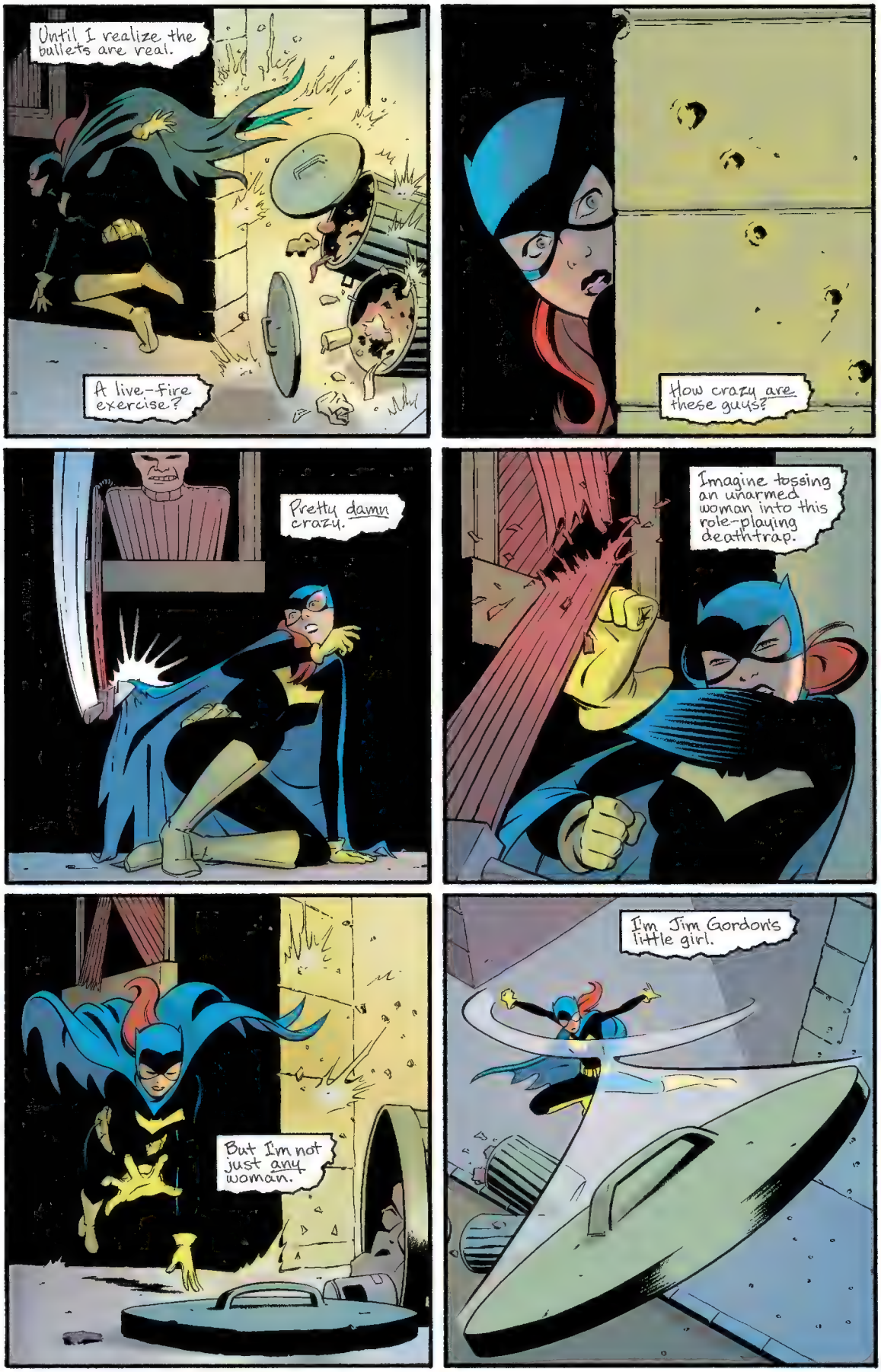

CLEAR CROSSING
WE HAVE *RULES* DOWN HERE.
DISABLE FAIL-SAFE

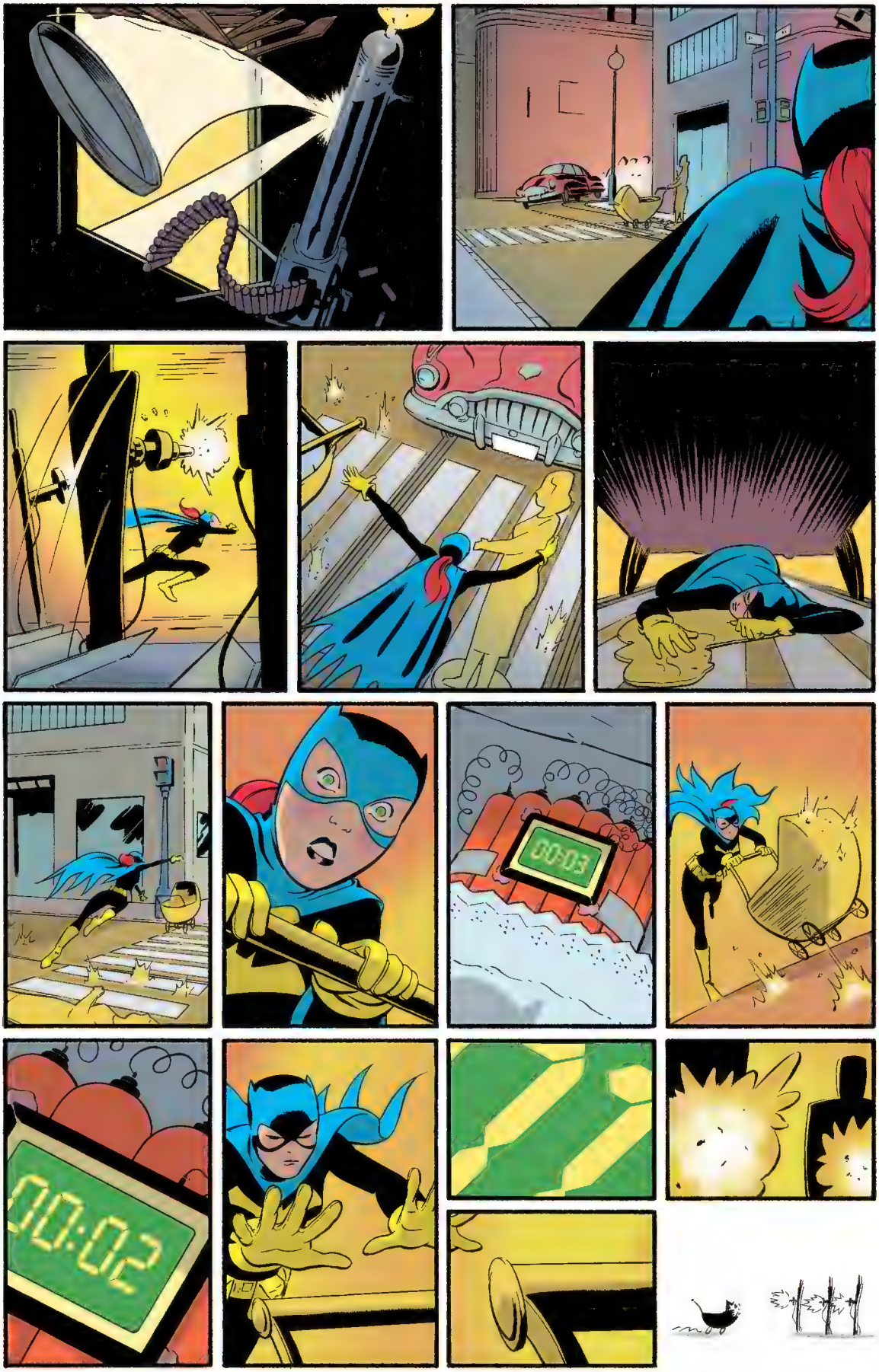
NOW WHAT?

WOW.
Nothing like the pistol range at the Police Academy.
This is more akin to a Hollywood sound stage.
What kind of money did they sink into this?
MEN AT WORK

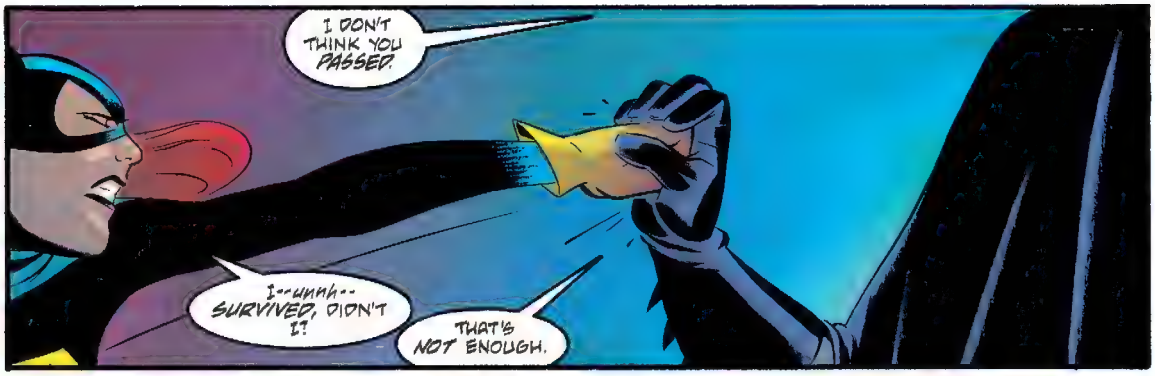
Is it more about cash than courage?

I think the special effects are convincing at first.
VOOP VOOP VOOP
VOOP


Until I realize the bullets are real.
A live-fire exercise?
How crazy are these guys?
Pretty damn crazy.
Imagine tossing an unarmed woman into this role-playing deathtrap.
But I'm not just any woman.
I'm Jim Gordon's little girl.


00:03
00:02

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
VERY NICE. I THINK YOU GET YOUR DIPLOMA.
REALLY?
oof!
WELL, HOW'S MY POST-GRADUATE WORK?
umh!
I WOULDN'T GRADE YOU AS HIGH AS MY PARTNER.
YEAH? WELL, I HAVE A FEW WORDS FOR YOU, TOO.


I DON'T THINK YOU PASSED.
I--UMMA--SURVIVED, DIDN'T I?
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

YOU USED LETHAL FORCE AGAINST YOUR LAST OPPONENTS.
WE DON'T DO THAT.
WE DON'T KILL EVEN TO DEFEND OURSELVES.

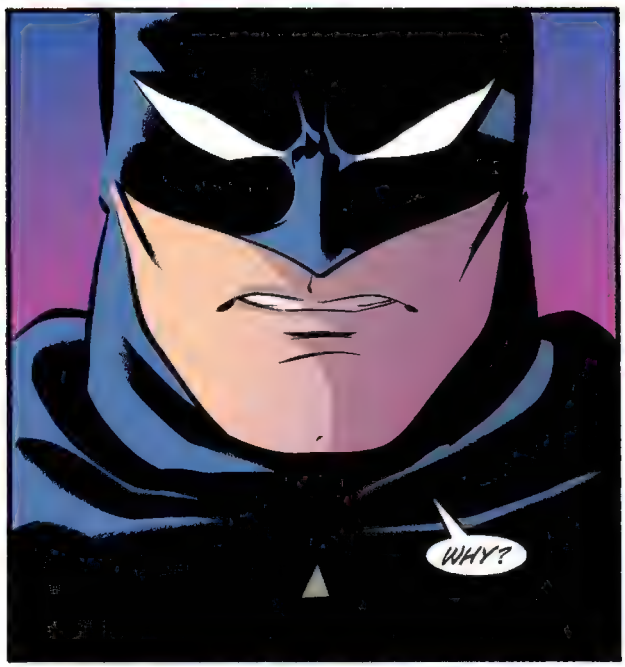
WAS I SUPPOSED TO LET--UH--YOUR PAPERDOLLS SHOOT ME?
WHAT WOULD THAT HAVE PROVED?

ONLY THAT YOU COULD BE ONE OF US.

IT WASN'T A FAIR TEST.
OW.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THE GEAR WE USE.

I DON'T NEED ALL THESE TOYS--
--YOUR WEIRD GIANT PENNY-ARCADE SHOOTING GALLERIES AND ALL THE REST.

I'M STRONG ENOUGH... inh... AND... unf... SMART ENOUGH FOR ANYTHING YOU THROW AT ME.
THEN ANSWER ONE QUESTION.


WHY?

WELL, I... I...
I THOUGHT SO.

THIS ISN'T A GAME.
TIME TO GO HOME, LITTLE GIRL.

IS THAT IT?
I FAIL THE FINAL BECAUSE I CAN'T TELL YOU IN FIFTY WORDS OR LESS WHY I WANT TO DO THIS?

YOU MAY HAVE ALL THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE--
--BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A MONOPOLY ON WANTING TO HELP.
I'LL TELL YOU WHY, YOU BIG SCARY GOON...

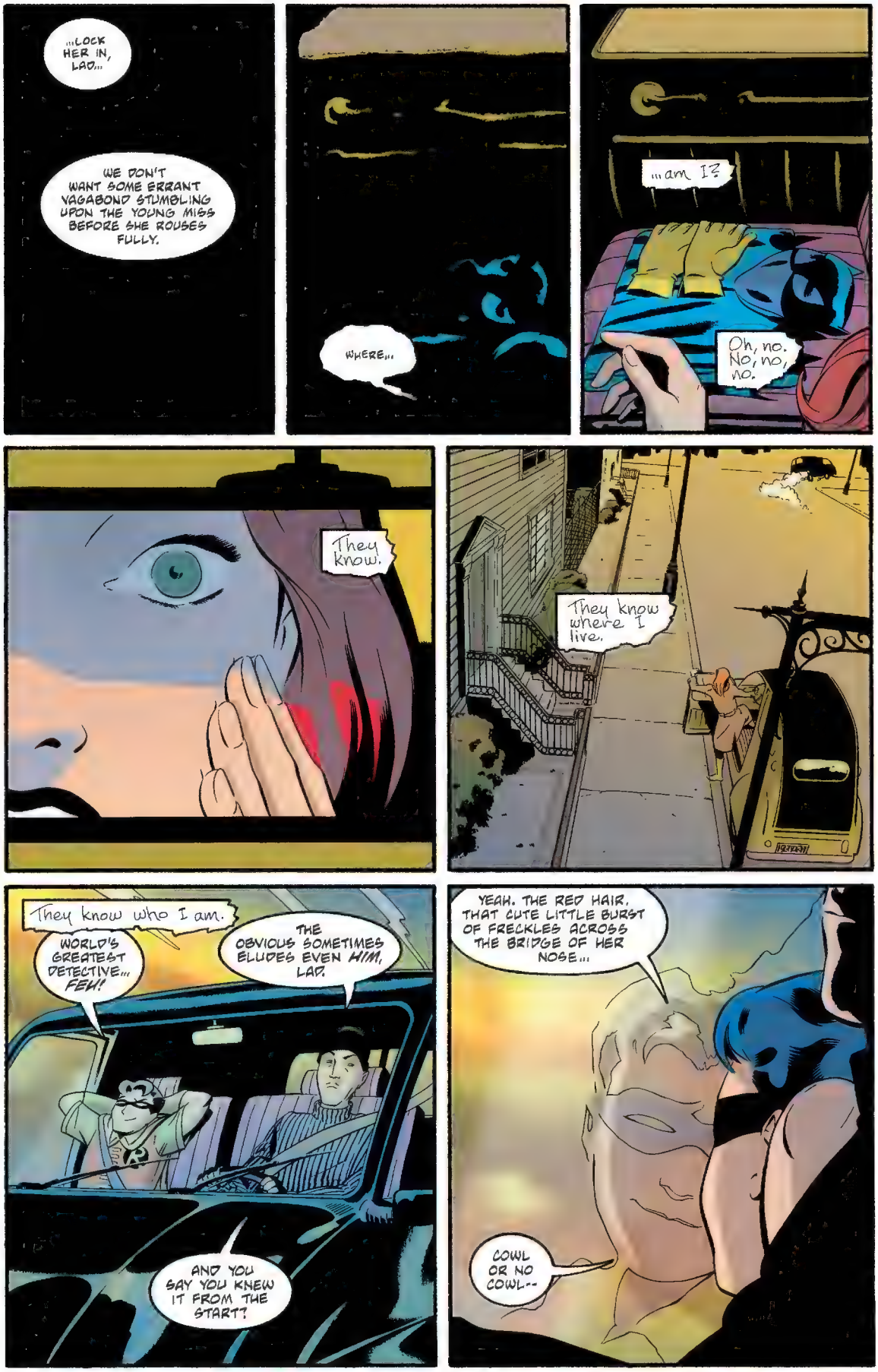
BECAUSE I CAN.

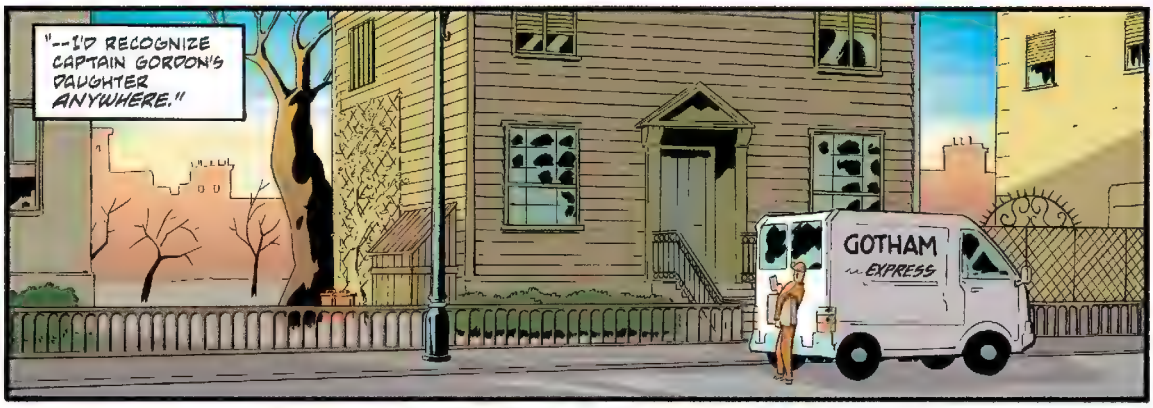
I CAN SEE GOTHAM'S FUTURE.
AND WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND PIXIE BOOTS AND ME, THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

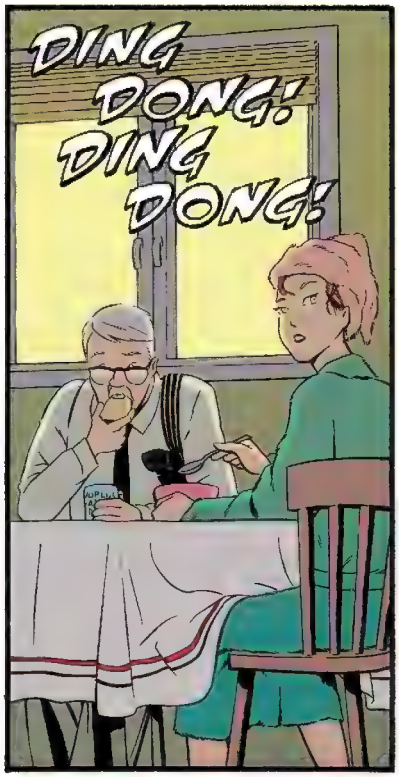
SO GO AHEAD AND GAS ME WITH YOUR HANDY KNOCKOUT SPRAY.
I'LL STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY WHEN I--

--WAKE?
FSSSTTTT

CURIOUS HOW THE ROLE OF "BAD COP" IS SO EASILY CEDED TO THE UNDERSTUDY.


...LOCK HER IN, LAD...
WE DON'T WANT SOME ERRANT VAGABOND STUMBLING UPON THE YOUNG MISS BEFORE SHE ROUSES FULLY.
WHERE...
...am I?
Oh, no. No, no, no.
They know.
They know where I live.
They know who I am.
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE... FEH!
THE OBVIOUS SOMETIMES ELUDES EVEN HIM, LAD.
AND YOU SAY YOU KNEW IT FROM THE START?
YEAH. THE RED HAIR. THAT CUTE LITTLE BURST OF FRECKLES ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF HER NOSE...
COWL OR NO COWL--


"--I'D RECOGNIZE CAPTAIN GORDON'S DAUGHTER ANYWHERE."
GOTHAM EXPRESS

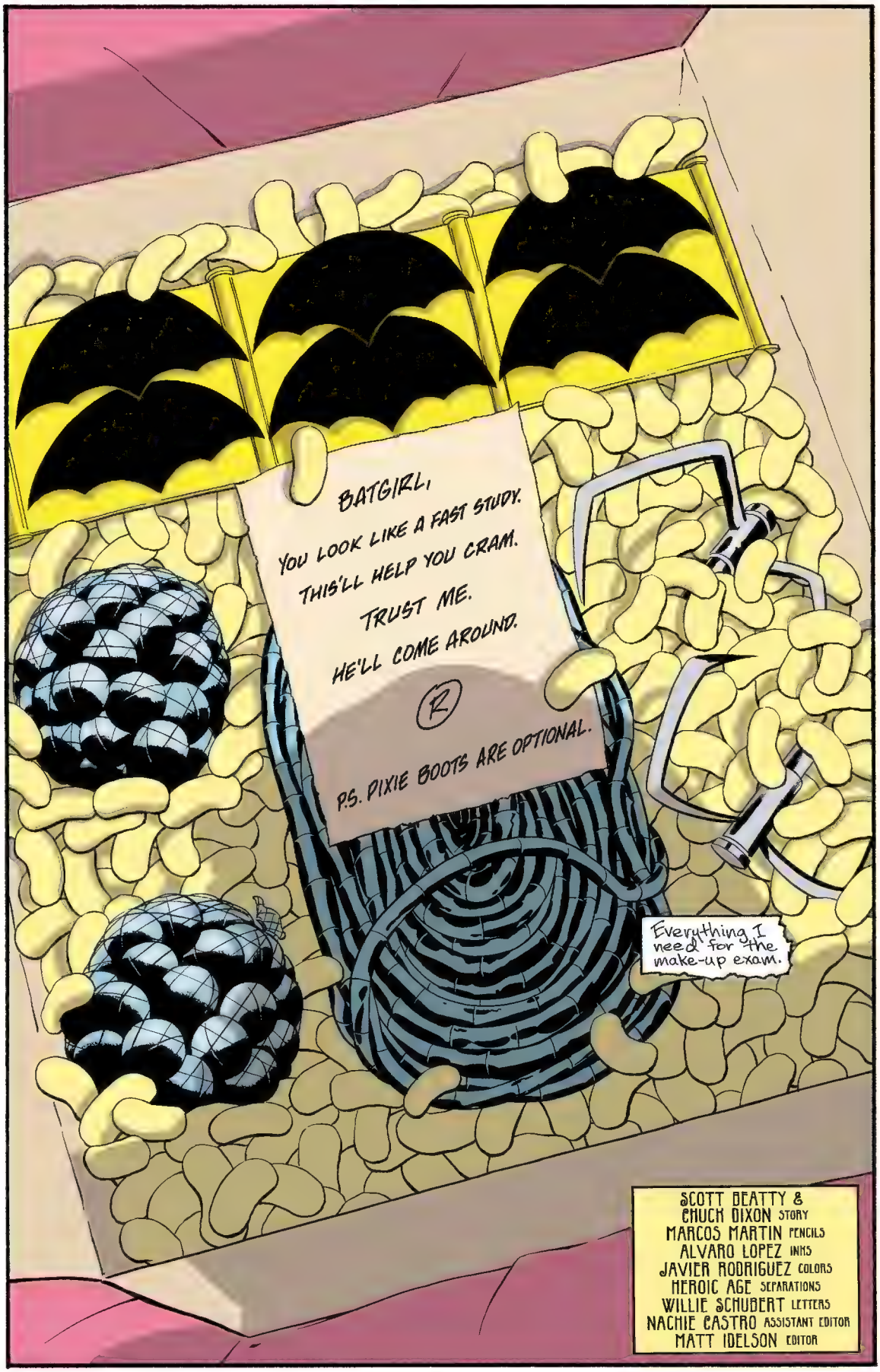

DING DONG! DING DONG!

MORE COMPUTER STUFF?
UH... LOOKS LIKE IT... YEAH.
MUST BE MY... UM... MEMORY UPGRADE.

Y'KNOW... RAM, ROM, BITS, AND BYTES.
That's it, Babsy. Baffle the antiquated Chief of Detectives with techno-jargon.
He'll no doubt dismiss your blushing also.
Yup. No way he'll even begin to surmise that his prim and proper daughter spent the better part of last night in the company of dark strangers in some batcave.
WORLD'S BEATEST DAD

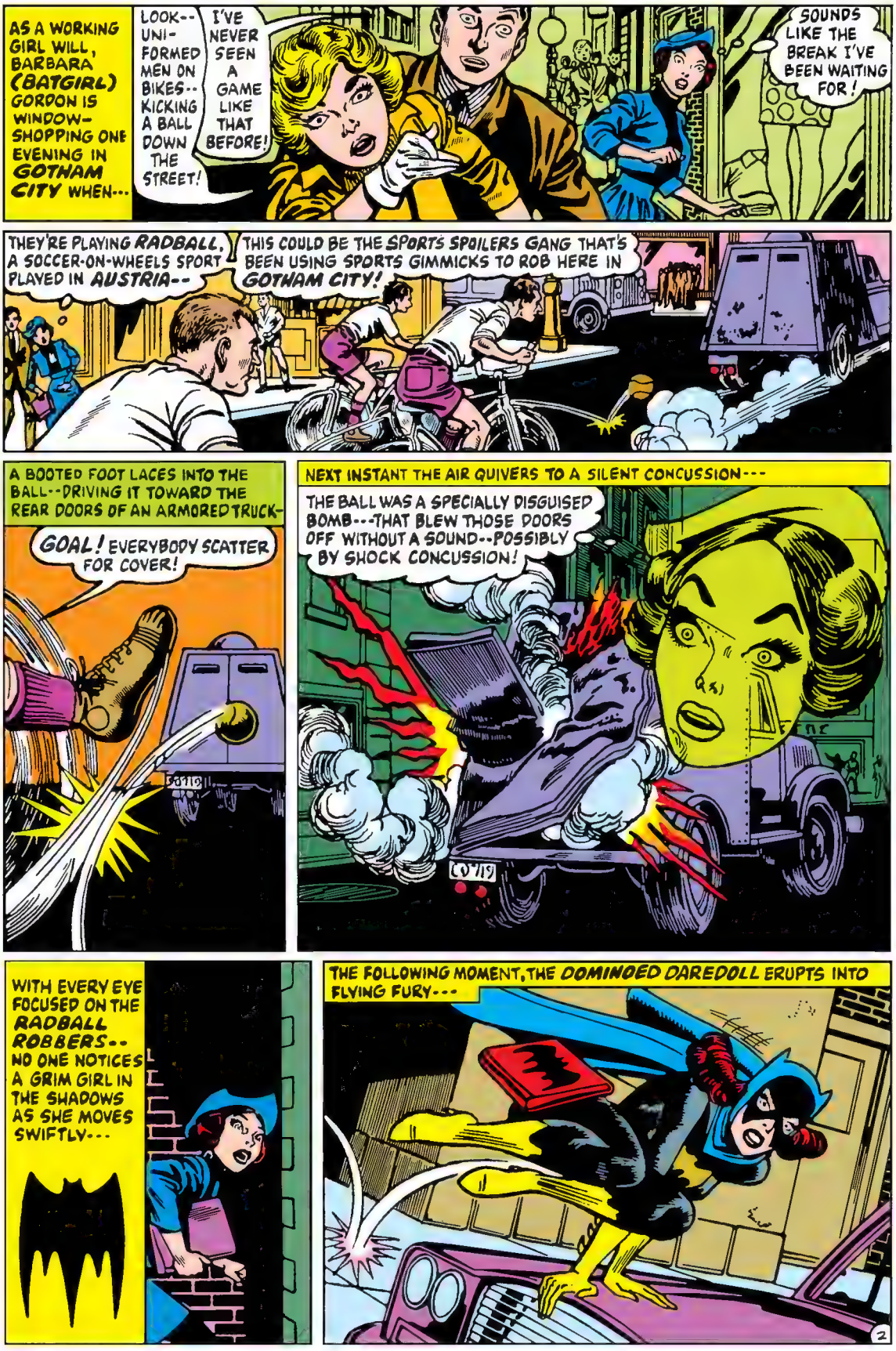
That's right, Dad.
MISS BARBARA GORDON
359 MURPHY AVENUE
GOTHAM CITY
00062
Just assume that your little Librarian is just ordering hopelessly boring geek items through the mail.

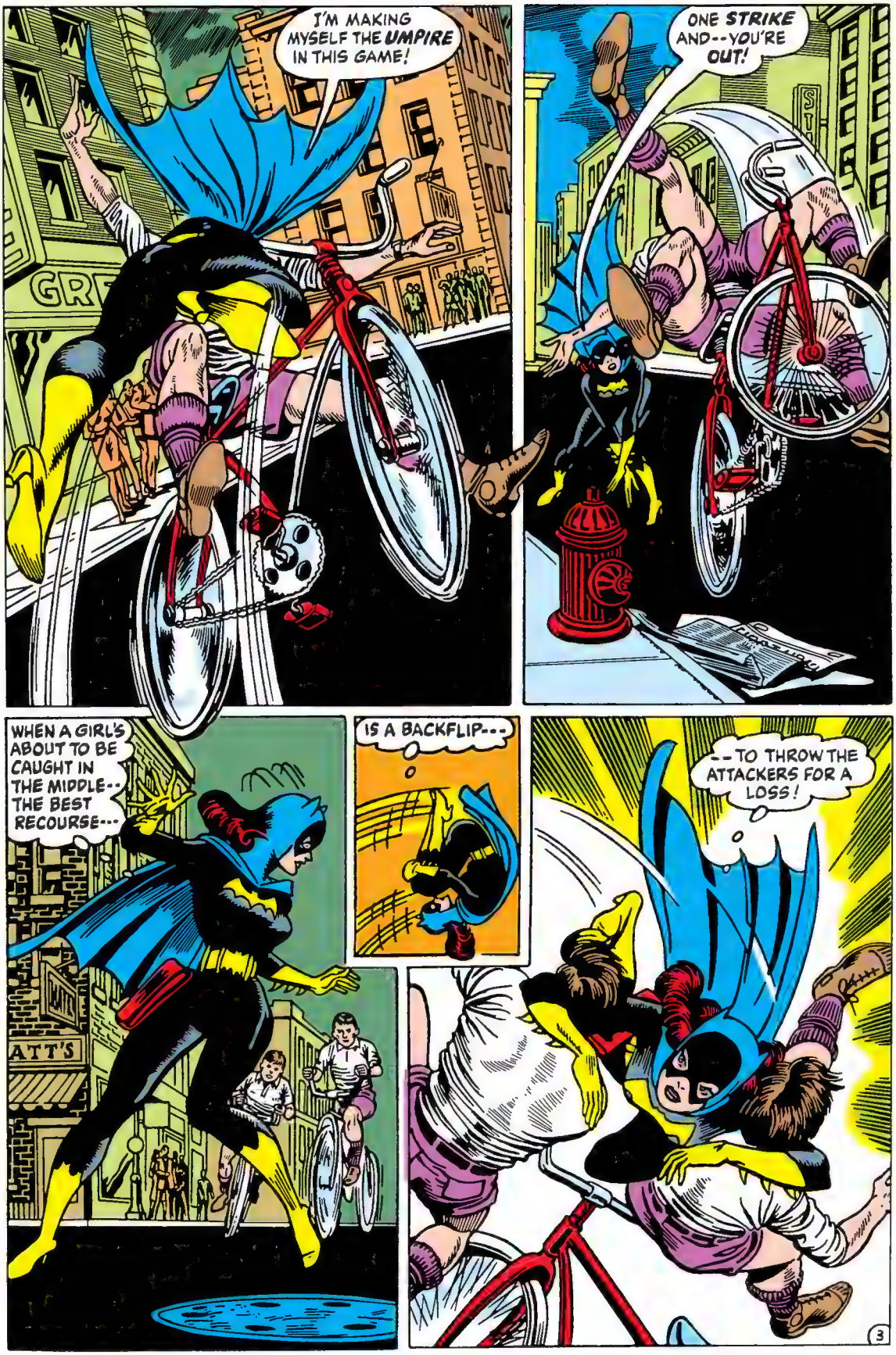
Hardware. Software. Test-prep materials...


BATGIRL,
YOU LOOK LIKE A FAST STUDY.
THIS'LL HELP YOU CRAM.
TRUST ME.
HE'LL COME AROUND.
R
P.S. PIXIE BOOTS ARE OPTIONAL.
Everything I need for the make-up exam.
SCOTT BEATTY & CHUCK DIXON STORY
MARCOS MARTIN PENCILS
ALVARO LOPEZ INKS
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ COLORS
HEROIC AGE SEPARATIONS
WILLIE SCHUBERT LETTERS
NACHIE CASTRO ASSISTANT EDITOR
MATT IDELSON EDITOR

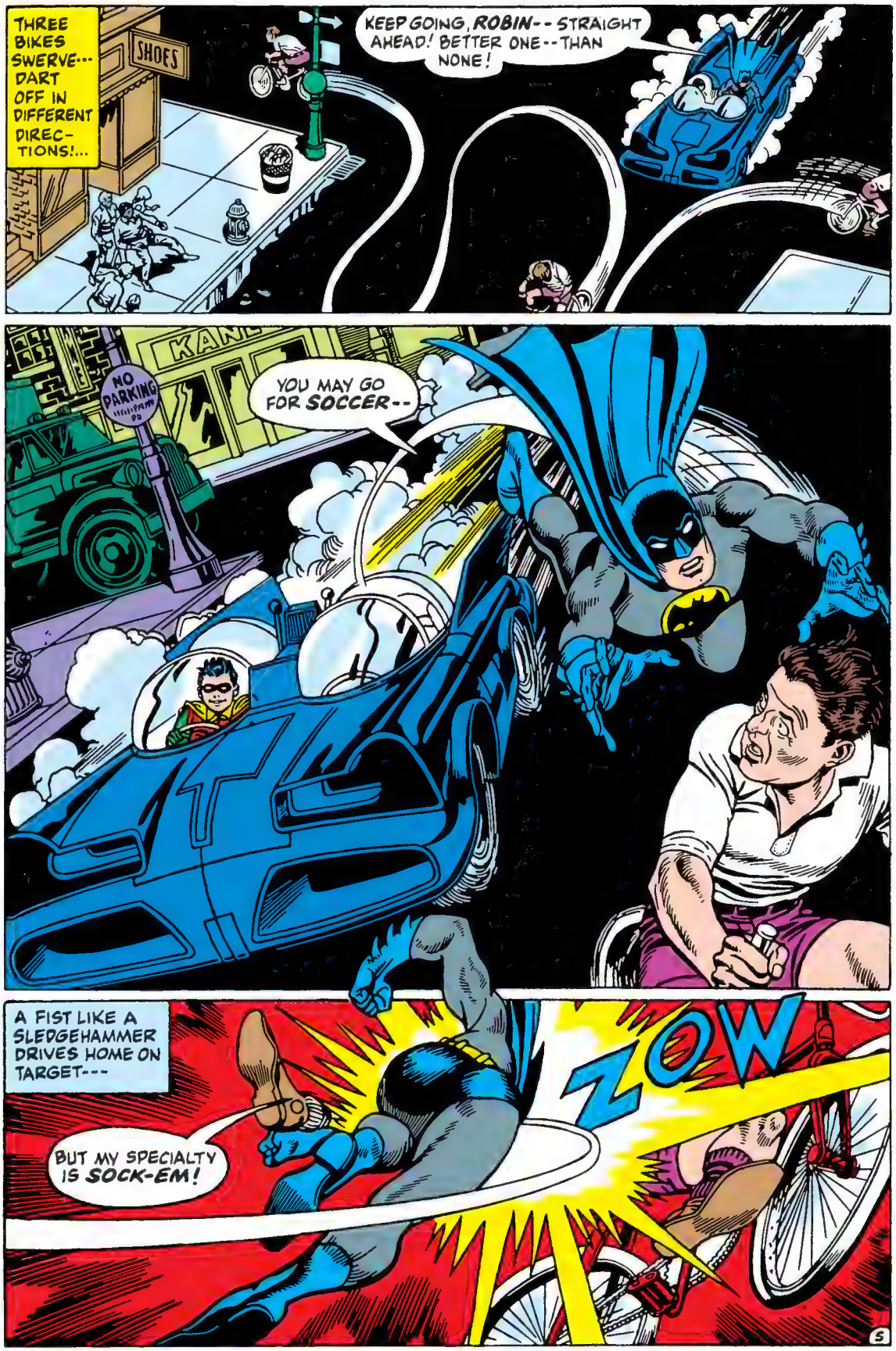
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
DETECTIVE
COMICS
"BATGIRL'S COSTUME CUT-UPS!"
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JAN.
NO. 371
BATGIRL-- GET OVER HERE-- HELP US! WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!
I HAVE A BIGGER ONE-- A RUN IN MY TIGHTS!
INFANTINO + ANDERSON

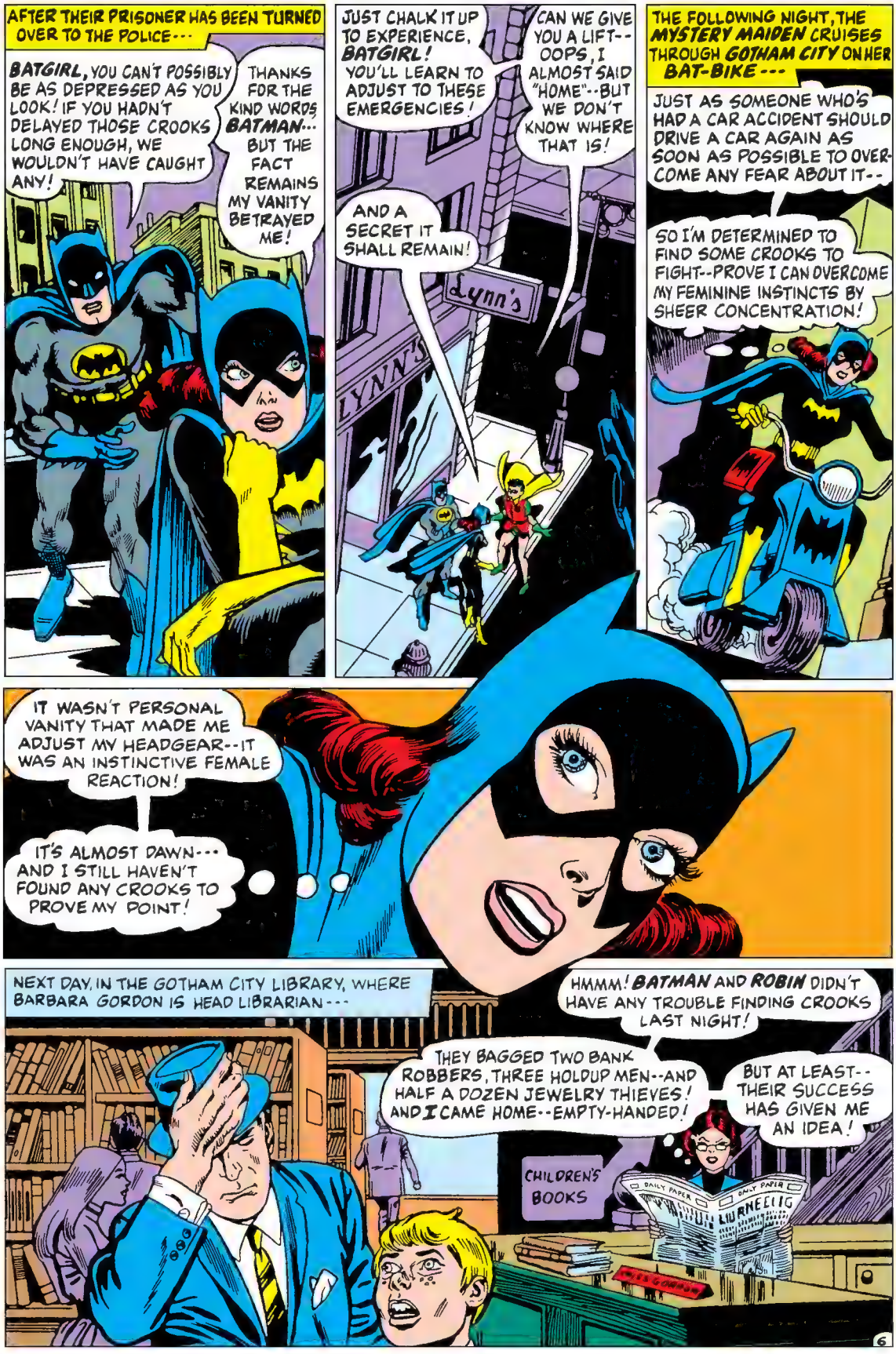
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
WHEN IS A WOMAN A WOMAN? EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY --AND NIGHT! EVEN BATGIRL DURING HER MOST HECTIC MOMENTS--WHEN SHE IS BATTLING CRIMINALS--IS ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF HER APPEARANCE! SHOULD HER COSTUME BE RIPPED, HER FACE SMEARED, A BOOTHEEL LOST---AND HER CONCERN BOOMERANGS AGAINST HER! AND YET BEING FEMININE CAN SOMETIMES BE TURNED TO AN ADVANTAGE, AS SHE DEMONSTRATES TO BATMAN AND ROBIN IN----
"BATGIRL'S COSTUME CUT-UPS!"
BY THE TIME BATGIRL PRETTIES HERSELF UP FOR THIS BRAWL--
IT'LL BE ALL OVER!


AS A WORKING GIRL WILL, BARBARA (BATGIRL) GORDON IS WINDOW-SHOPPING ONE EVENING IN GOTHAM CITY WHEN...
LOOK--UNI-FORMED MEN ON BIKES--KICKING A BALL DOWN THE STREET!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A GAME LIKE THAT BEFORE!
SOUNDS LIKE THE BREAK I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
THEY'RE PLAYING RADBALL, A SOCCER-ON-WHEELS SPORT PLAYED IN AUSTRIA--
THIS COULD BE THE SPORTS SPOILERS GANG THAT'S BEEN USING SPORTS GIMMICKS TO ROB HERE IN GOTHAM CITY!
A BOOTED FOOT LACES INTO THE BALL--DRIVING IT TOWARD THE REAR DOORS OF AN ARMORED TRUCK-
GOAL! EVERYBODY SCATTER FOR COVER!
NEXT INSTANT THE AIR QUIVERS TO A SILENT CONCUSSION---
THE BALL WAS A SPECIALLY DISGUISED BOMB---THAT BLEW THOSE DOORS OFF WITHOUT A SOUND--POSSIBLY BY SHOCK CONCUSSION!
WITH EVERY EYE FOCUSED ON THE RADBALL ROBBERS--NO ONE NOTICES A GRIM GIRL IN THE SHADOWS AS SHE MOVES SWIFTLY---
THE FOLLOWING MOMENT, THE DOMINOED DAREDOLL ERUPTS INTO FLYING FURY---
2

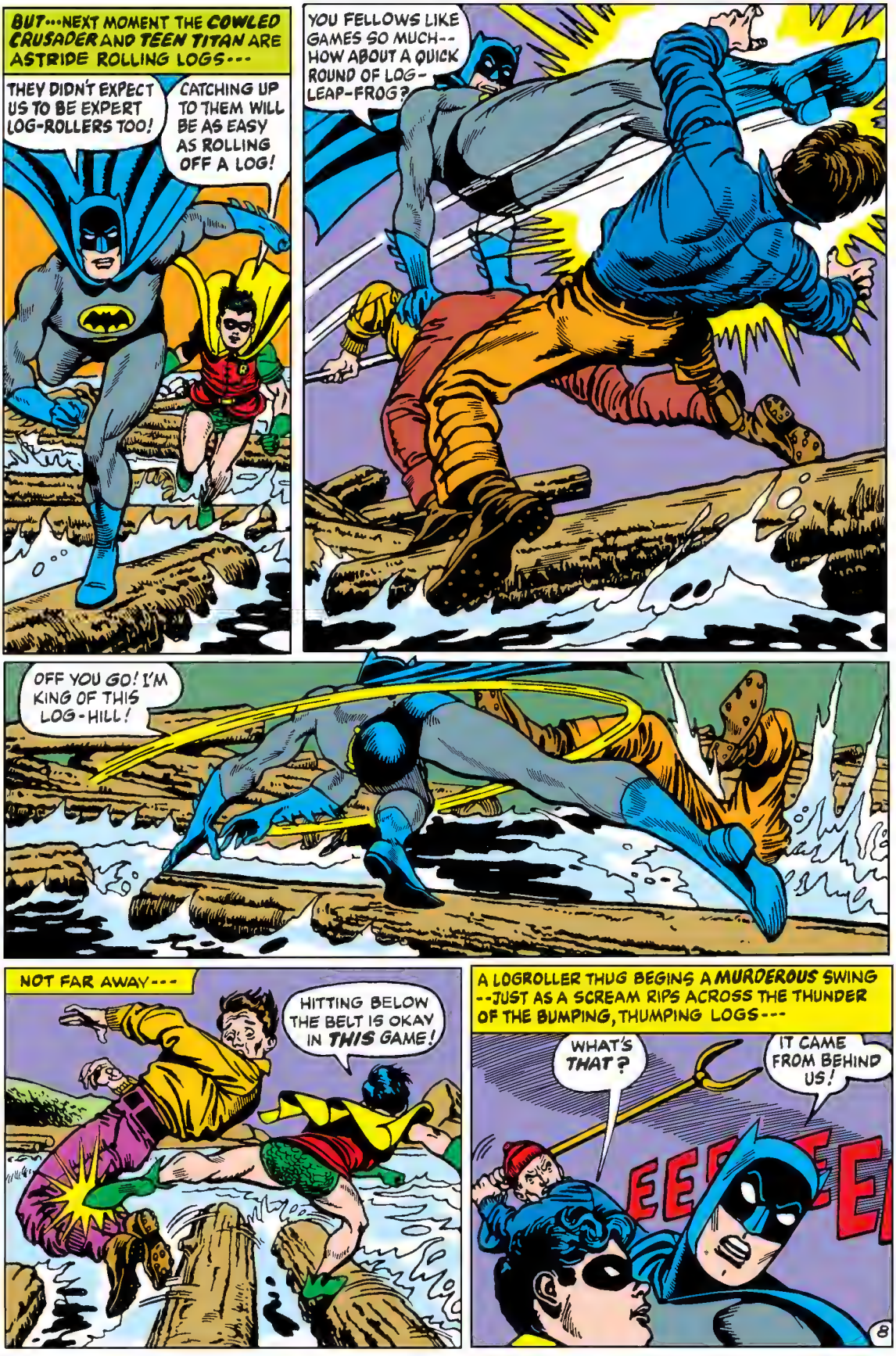

I'M MAKING MYSELF THE UMPIRE IN THIS GAME!
ONE STRIKE AND--YOU'RE OUT!
WHEN A GIRL'S ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE--THE BEST RECOURSE---
IS A BACKFLIP---
--TO THROW THE ATTACKERS FOR A LOSS!
ATT'S
3

CAUGHT UNAWARES, A RIDERLESS BIKE CAROMS INTO THE MASKED MAIDEN..
OHHH!
THAT PEDAL--MOVING MY HEAD-PIECE OFF CENTER!
AND AS ANY GIRL WILL---
THERE--THAT STRAIGHTENS IT OUT!
A MOMENTARY PAUSE THAT LEAVES BARBARA WITH A KICK COMING---
OHHH---SERVES ME RIGHT.. FOR BEING MORE CONCERNED WITH MY APPEARANCE--- THAN THOSE RADBALL ROBBERS---
UPENDED, HER ATHLETIC BODY PERFORMS A BACKWARD SOMERSAULT----
WHAT A FOOL THING TO DO! NOW THOSE RADBALL ROBBERS WILL MAKE THEIR GETAWAY---
---AND I DON'T HAVE MY BAT-BIKE TO GO AFTER THEM!
4
THEN..OUT OF THE NIGHT A MOTOR THROBS TO FULL POWER AS THE BAT-MOBILE COMES STREAKING ONTO THE SCENE---
OUR RADAR UNIT PICKED UP THE DISTURB-ANCE, BATMAN--AND THERE IT IS!
JEAN'S HATS
mathew's
GIL
DELICA
AT LAST, ROBIN! WE'VE CAUGHT UP TO THE SPORTS SPOILERS DECKED OUT LIKE RADBALL PLAYERS!
QUICK--TAKE THE WHEEL!


THREE BIKES SWERVE... DART OFF IN DIFFERENT DIREC-TIONS!...
SHOES
KEEP GOING, ROBIN-- STRAIGHT AHEAD! BETTER ONE--THAN NONE!
NO PARKING
YOU MAY GO FOR SOCCER--
A FIST LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER DRIVES HOME ON TARGET---
BUT MY SPECIALTY IS SOCK-EM!
ZOW
5


AFTER THEIR PRISONER HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE---
BATGIRL, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE AS DEPRESSED AS YOU LOOK! IF YOU HADN'T DELAYED THOSE CROOKS LONG ENOUGH, WE WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT ANY!
THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS BATMAN... BUT THE FACT REMAINS MY VANITY BETRAYED ME!
JUST CHALK IT UP TO EXPERIENCE, BATGIRL! YOU'LL LEARN TO ADJUST TO THESE EMERGENCIES!
CAN WE GIVE YOU A LIFT--OOPS, I ALMOST SAID "HOME"--BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS!
AND A SECRET IT SHALL REMAIN!
Lynn's
LYNN'S
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE MYSTERY MAIDEN CRUISES THROUGH GOTHAM CITY ON HER BAT-BIKE---
JUST AS SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A CAR ACCIDENT SHOULD DRIVE A CAR AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME ANY FEAR ABOUT IT--
SO I'M DETERMINED TO FIND SOME CROOKS TO FIGHT--PROVE I CAN OVERCOME MY FEMININE INSTINCTS BY SHEER CONCENTRATION!
IT WASN'T PERSONAL VANITY THAT MADE ME ADJUST MY HEADGEAR--IT WAS AN INSTINCTIVE FEMALE REACTION!
IT'S ALMOST DAWN--- AND I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ANY CROOKS TO PROVE MY POINT!
NEXT DAY, IN THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY, WHERE BARBARA GORDON IS HEAD LIBRARIAN---
HMMM! BATMAN AND ROBIN DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING CROOKS LAST NIGHT!
THEY BAGGED TWO BANK ROBBERS, THREE HOLDUP MEN--AND HALF A DOZEN JEWELRY THIEVES! AND I CAME HOME--EMPTY-HANDED!
BUT AT LEAST--THEIR SUCCESS HAS GIVEN ME AN IDEA!
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
DAILY PAPER
DAILY PAPER
6

THAT EVENING---
I'LL LET THE DYNAMIC DUO FIND MY CROOKS FOR ME!
I'LL GET A FIX ON THE BAT-MOBILE WITH MY MULTI-COLOR LIGHT-TRACKING DEVICE--AND TRAIL IT!
THE THIEF-TRAIL LEADS OUT OF THE CITY--TOWARD A GOTHAM RIVER SAWMILL---
OUR TIPSTER TOLD US THE SPORTS SPOILERS WOULD ROB THIS SAW-MILL TONIGHT!
WHAT'S TO ROB IN A SAW MILL, FOR PETE'S SAKE?
I TOOK THE TROUBLE TO INVESTIGATE, ROBIN! THE SAWMILL ALSO HAS A METAL WORKSHOP WHERE PRECIOUS METALS ARE SHAPED INTO SPORTS-CONTEST PRIZES AND TROPHIES!
SO THE CROOKS ARE AFTER GOLD INGOTS AND BARS OF SILVER!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SAWMILL---
HURRY IT UP! BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE CLOSING IN ON US!
LET GO THE CHAINS! WE'VE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR--SO LET'S LOG AWAY FROM HERE!
WITH A ROAR AND RUMBLE OF PILED LOGS SUDDENLY FREED--THE RIVER RAPIDS FILL WITH FLOATING TIMBERS---
HA! HA! THIS IS ONE SPORT THEY PLAY UP IN THE HIGH TIMBER COUNTRY THAT THE CAPED CRUSADERS NEVER LEARNED!
ALL WE GOTTA DO TO MAKE OUR GETA-WAY IS RIDE THE LOGS LIKE WE'VE PRACTICED!
7


BUT...NEXT MOMENT THE COWLED CRUSADER AND TEEN TITAN ARE ASTRIDE ROLLING LOGS---
THEY DIDN'T EXPECT US TO BE EXPERT LOG-ROLLERS TOO!
CATCHING UP TO THEM WILL BE AS EASY AS ROLLING OFF A LOG!
YOU FELLOWS LIKE GAMES SO MUCH--HOW ABOUT A QUICK ROUND OF LOG-LEAP-FROG?
OFF YOU GO! I'M KING OF THIS LOG-HILL!
NOT FAR AWAY---
HITTING BELOW THE BELT IS OKAY IN THIS GAME!
A LOGROLLER THUG BEGINS A MURDEROUS SWING --JUST AS A SCREAM RIPS ACROSS THE THUNDER OF THE BUMPING, THUMPING LOGS---
WHAT'S THAT?
IT CAME FROM BEHIND US!
EEEEEE
8

WHIRLING AROUND QUICKLY, THE *DYNAMIC DUO* LOSES ITS BALANCE BEFORE THE DEADLY BLOW IS STRUCK---

I DON'T KNOW WHO YELLED---BUT IT INSTINCTIVELY CAUGHT MY ATTENTION--CAUSING MY LOG TO GO OUT FROM UNDER ME!

WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLIMB BACK ON A LOG AND GO AFTER THE REST OF THEM NOW!

WHILE ON THE DENSELY WOODED SHORE---

DARN! I DID IT AGAIN!

MY REACTION AT SEEING *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* IN DANGER ---WAS TO LET ONE GO FROM MY VOCAL CHORDS!

IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP THOSE CROOKS NOW!

I CAN'T RIDE ON ROLLING LOGS--THOUGH I MUST MAKE IT A POINT TO LEARN HOW!--BUT I *CAN* RAISE THE UNDER-WATER CHAIN-NET THAT'S USED TO RESTRAIN LOGS FROM PILING UP IN A LOG JAM!

BUT—EVEN AS *BATGIRL* GRIPS THE CHAIN-NET LEVER---

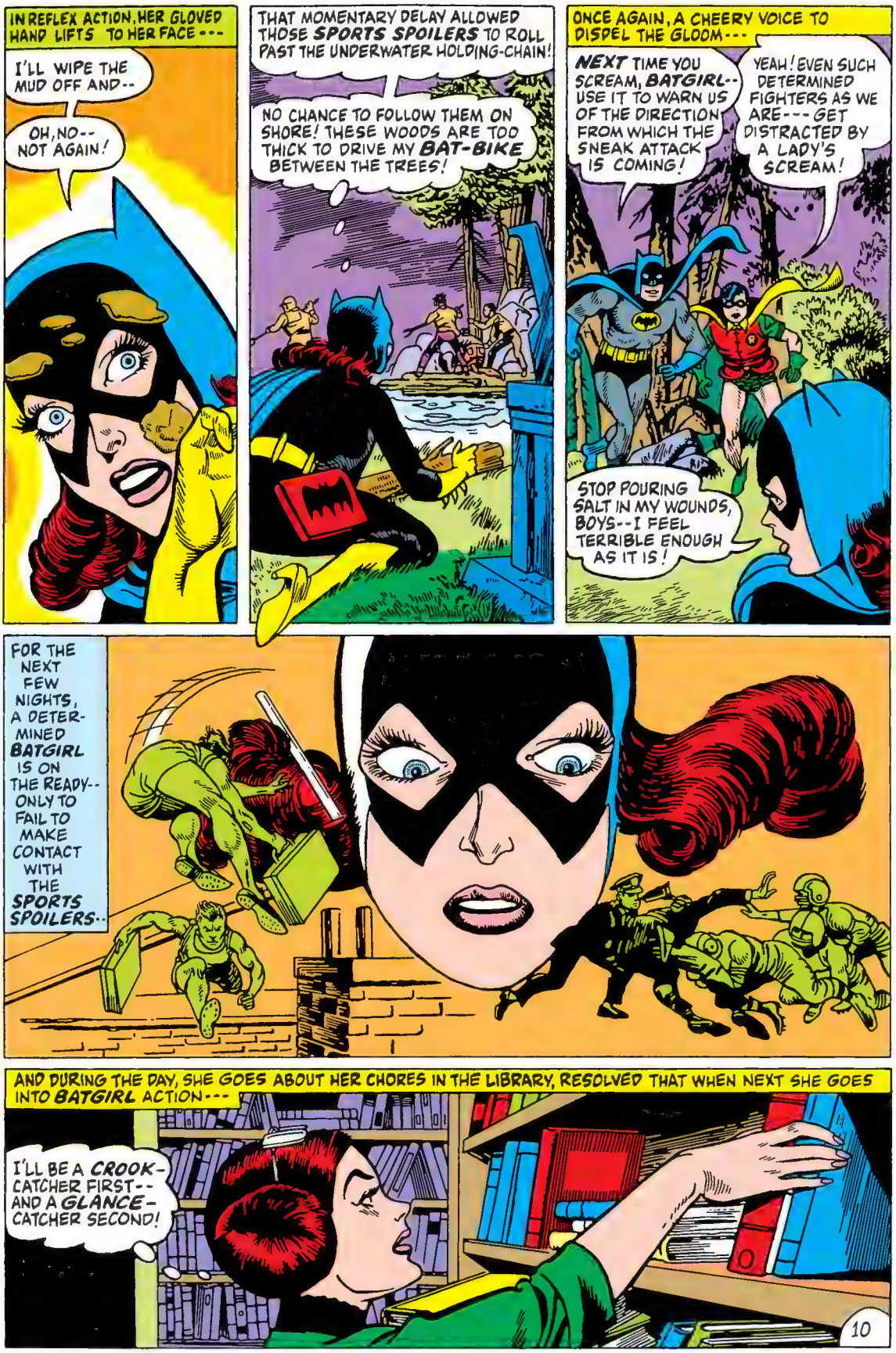
THIS SMALL LOG WILL QUEER HER GAME!

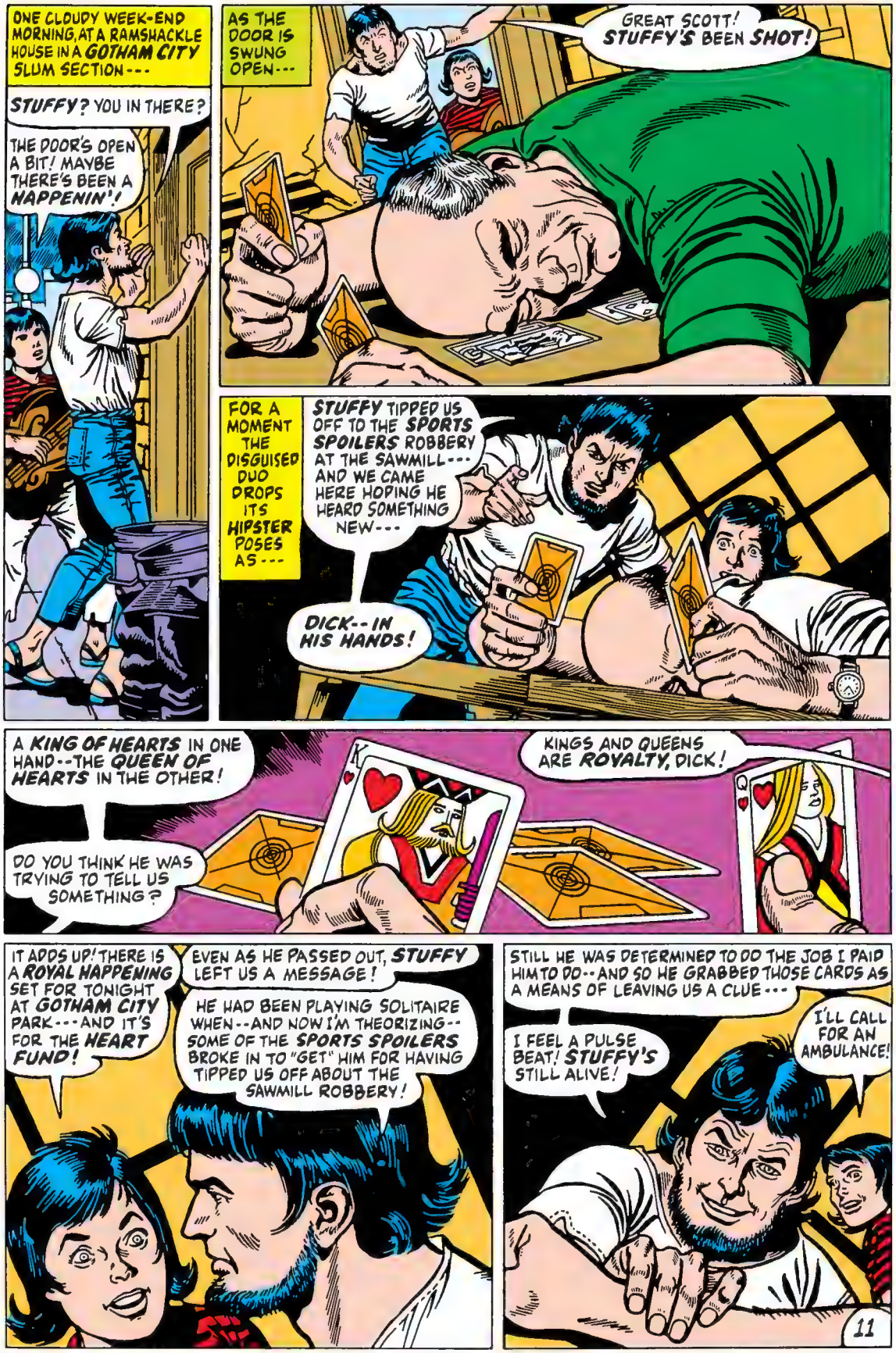
UMMPFFF!

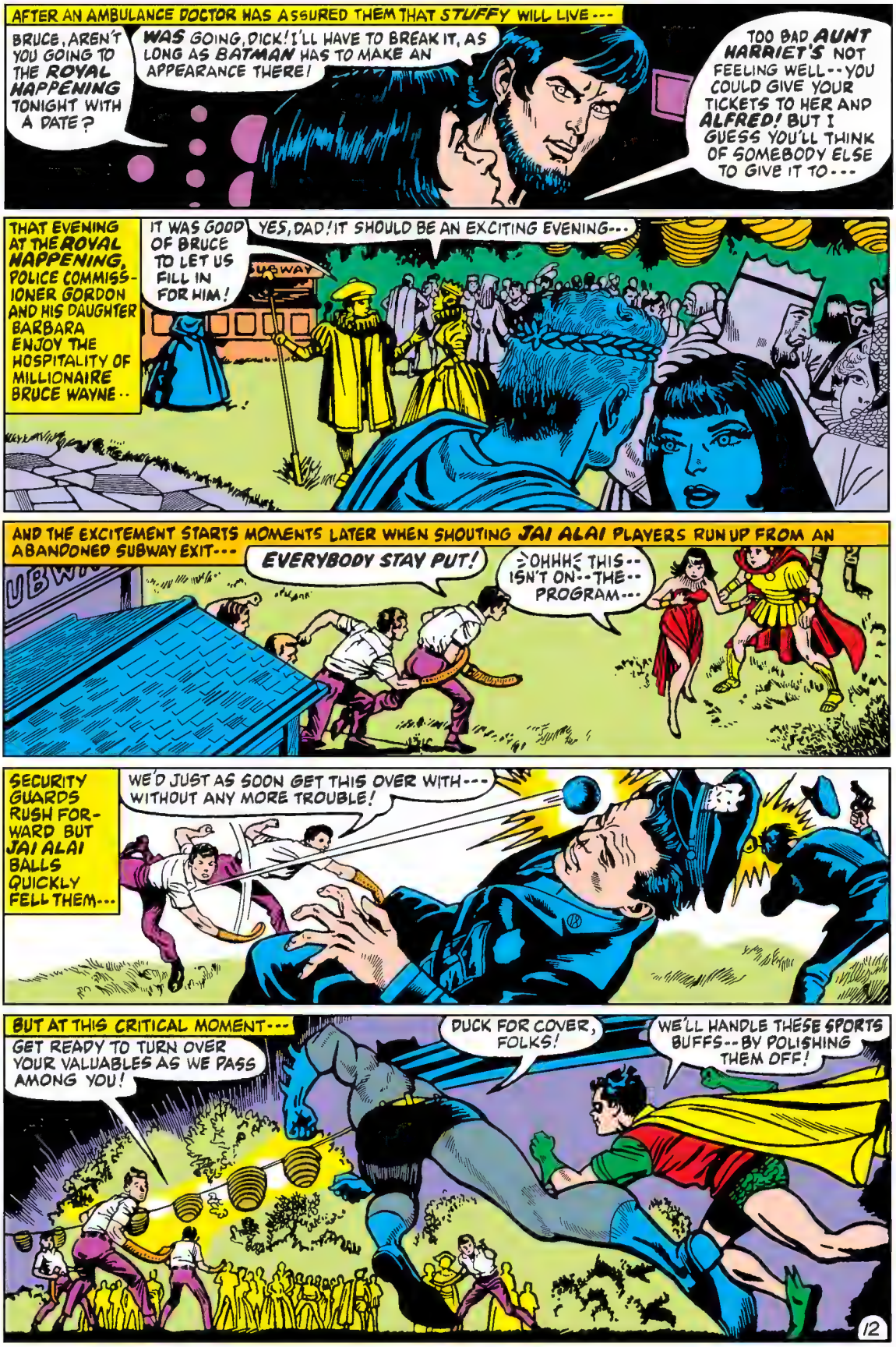
THE LOG MISSED ME--BUT SPLATTERED ME WITH MUD!

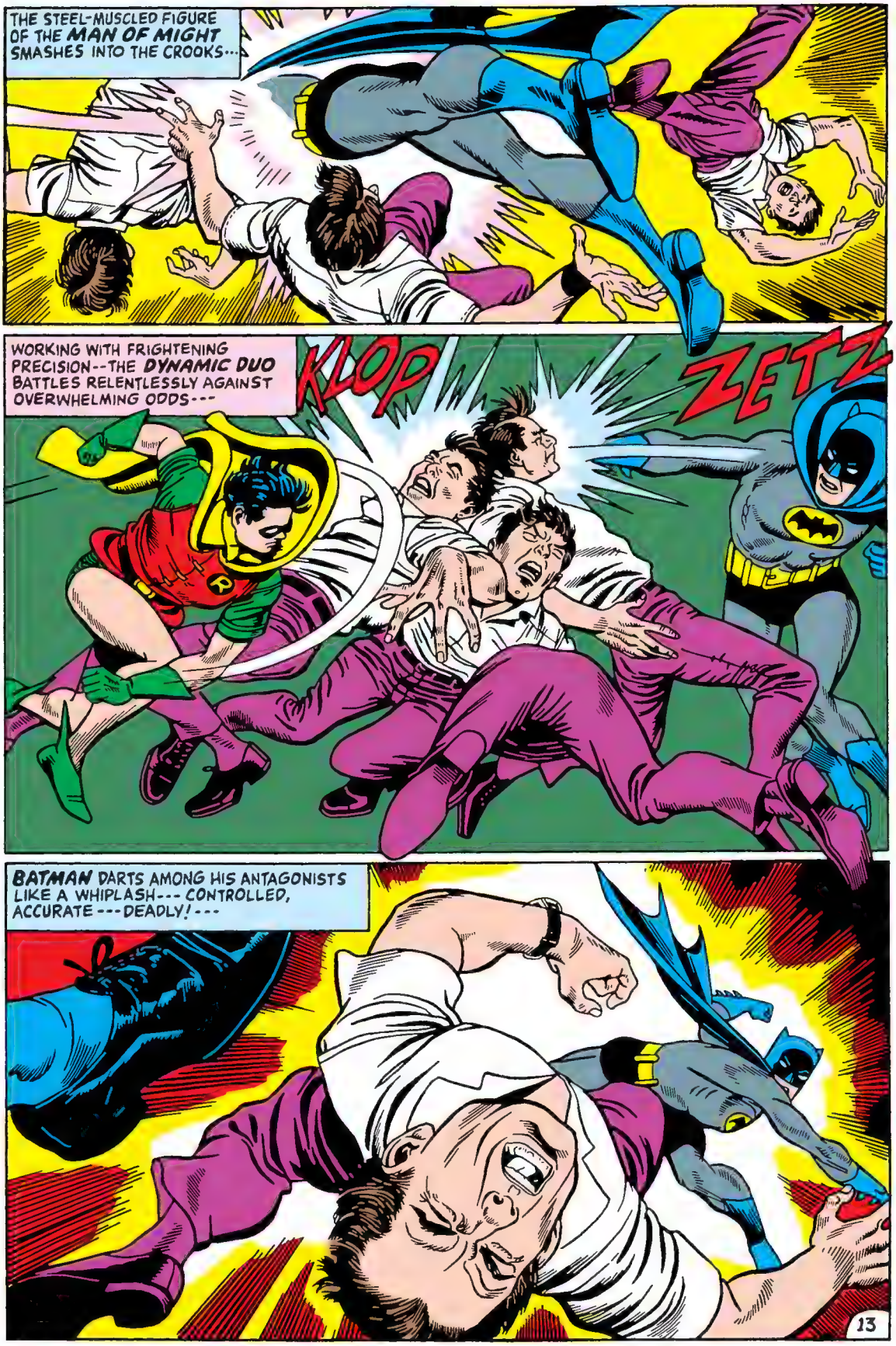
SPLAAATT

9


IN REFLEX ACTION, HER GLOVED HAND LIFTS TO HER FACE---
I'LL WIPE THE MUD OFF AND--
OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN!
THAT MOMENTARY DELAY ALLOWED THOSE SPORTS SPOILERS TO ROLL PAST THE UNDERWATER HOLDING-CHAIN!
NO CHANCE TO FOLLOW THEM ON SHORE! THESE WOODS ARE TOO THICK TO DRIVE MY BAT-BIKE BETWEEN THE TREES!
ONCE AGAIN, A CHEERY VOICE TO DISPEL THE GLOOM---
NEXT TIME YOU SCREAM, BATGIRL-- USE IT TO WARN US OF THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE SNEAK ATTACK IS COMING!
YEAH! EVEN SUCH DETERMINED FIGHTERS AS WE ARE--- GET DISTRACTED BY A LADY'S SCREAM!
STOP POURING SALT IN MY WOUNDS, BOYS--I FEEL TERRIBLE ENOUGH AS IT IS!
FOR THE NEXT FEW NIGHTS, A DETERMINED BATGIRL IS ON THE READY-- ONLY TO FAIL TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SPORTS SPOILERS--
AND DURING THE DAY, SHE GOES ABOUT HER CHORES IN THE LIBRARY, RESOLVED THAT WHEN NEXT SHE GOES INTO BATGIRL ACTION---
I'LL BE A CROOK-CATCHER FIRST-- AND A GLANCE-CATCHER SECOND!
10


ONE CLOUDY WEEK-END MORNING, AT A RAMSHACKLE HOUSE IN A GOTHAM CITY SLUM SECTION---
STUFFY? YOU IN THERE?
THE DOOR'S OPEN A BIT! MAYBE THERE'S BEEN A HAPPENIN'!
AS THE DOOR IS SWUNG OPEN---
GREAT SCOTT! STUFFY'S BEEN SHOT!
FOR A MOMENT THE DISGUISED DUO DROPS ITS HIPSTER POSES AS---
STUFFY TIPPED US OFF TO THE SPORTS SPOILERS ROBBERY AT THE SAWMILL--- AND WE CAME HERE HOPING HE HEARD SOMETHING NEW---
DICK--IN HIS HANDS!
A KING OF HEARTS IN ONE HAND--THE QUEEN OF HEARTS IN THE OTHER!
DO YOU THINK HE WAS TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING?
KINGS AND QUEENS ARE ROYALTY, DICK!
IT ADDS UP! THERE IS A ROYAL HAPPENING SET FOR TONIGHT AT GOTHAM CITY PARK---AND IT'S FOR THE HEART FUND!
EVEN AS HE PASSED OUT, STUFFY LEFT US A MESSAGE!
HE HAD BEEN PLAYING SOLITAIRE WHEN--AND NOW I'M THEORIZING--SOME OF THE SPORTS SPOILERS BROKE IN TO "GET" HIM FOR HAVING TIPPED US OFF ABOUT THE SAWMILL ROBBERY!
STILL HE WAS DETERMINED TO DO THE JOB I PAID HIM TO DO--AND SO HE GRABBED THOSE CARDS AS A MEANS OF LEAVING US A CLUE---
I FEEL A PULSE BEAT! STUFFY'S STILL ALIVE!
I'LL CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!
11


AFTER AN AMBULANCE DOCTOR HAS ASSURED THEM THAT STUFFY WILL LIVE---
BRUCE, AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE ROYAL HAPPENING TONIGHT WITH A DATE?
WAS GOING, DICK! I'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT, AS LONG AS BATMAN HAS TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE THERE!
TOO BAD AUNT HARRIET'S NOT FEELING WELL--YOU COULD GIVE YOUR TICKETS TO HER AND ALFRED! BUT I GUESS YOU'LL THINK OF SOMEBODY ELSE TO GIVE IT TO---
THAT EVENING AT THE ROYAL HAPPENING, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE..
IT WAS GOOD OF BRUCE TO LET US FILL IN FOR HIM!
YES, DAD! IT SHOULD BE AN EXCITING EVENING---
SUBWAY
AND THE EXCITEMENT STARTS MOMENTS LATER WHEN SHOUTING JAI ALAI PLAYERS RUN UP FROM AN ABANDONED SUBWAY EXIT---
EVERYBODY STAY PUT!
OHHH! THIS--ISN'T ON--THE--PROGRAM---
SECURITY GUARDS RUSH FORWARD BUT JAI ALAI BALLS QUICKLY FELL THEM---
WE'D JUST AS SOON GET THIS OVER WITH--- WITHOUT ANY MORE TROUBLE!
BUT AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT---
GET READY TO TURN OVER YOUR VALUABLES AS WE PASS AMONG YOU!
DUCK FOR COVER, FOLKS!
WE'LL HANDLE THESE SPORTS BUFFS--BY POLISHING THEM OFF!
12


THE STEEL-MUSCLED FIGURE OF THE MAN OF MIGHT SMASHES INTO THE CROOKS...
WORKING WITH FRIGHTENING PRECISION--THE DYNAMIC DUO BATTLES RELENTLESSLY AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS---
KLOP
ZETZ
BATMAN DARTS AMONG HIS ANTAGONISTS LIKE A WHIPLASH--- CONTROLLED, ACCURATE---DEADLY!---
13

TO ONE SIDE, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION---
THIS IS NOT VERY DIGNIFIED FOR A QUEEN VICTORIA---
BUT I'VE BEEN SO ANXIOUS FOR ANOTHER CHANCE--I WORE MY BATGIRL COSTUME UNDERNEATH!
DROPPING FROM HER COSTUME-CHANGING PERCH, THE DOMINOED DAREDOLL RACES TOWARD THE BATTLE ROYAL---
I COUNT NINE OF THEM--THAT'S ONLY THREE FOR EACH OF US TO HANDLE!
WHAT A SPOT FOR A FEMININE FRAILTY--NOW!
SUDDENLY BATGIRL SLIDES TO A HALT--LIFTS HER LEG---
BATGIRL--GET OVER HERE--HELP US! WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!
I HAVE A BIGGER ONE--A RUN IN MY TIGHTS!
EXTENDING HER SHAPELY LEG, SHE STUDIES THE JAGGED TEAR--WHILE LAWBREAKER EYES STARE ADMIRINGLY---
WHAT A PAIR OF GAMS!
14

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LEGGY DIVERSION, BATMAN AND ROBIN POUR IT ON THEIR ASSAILANTS -- SMASHINGLY, IRRSSISTIBLY ---

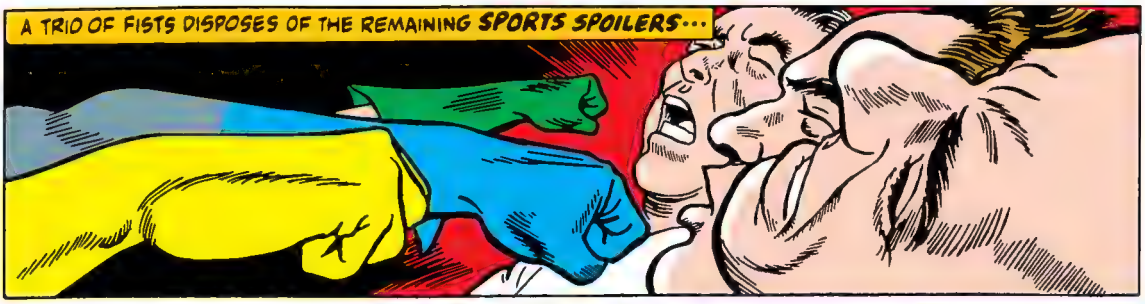
BATGIRL'S FEMININITY GAVE US A BREAK THIS TIME!

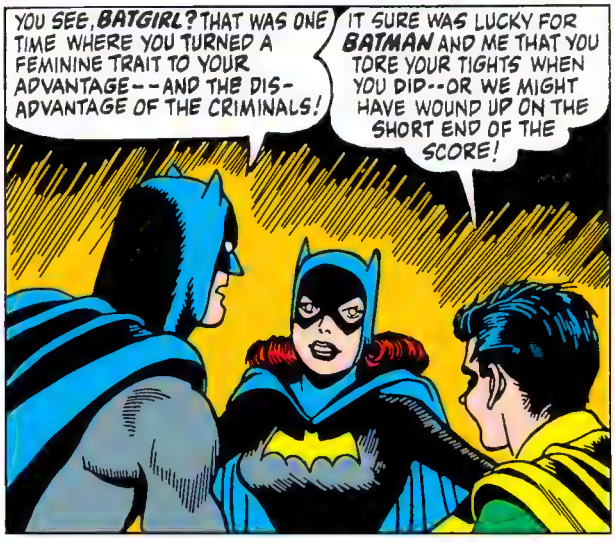
AS BATGIRL HURLS HERSELF INTO THE FRAY---

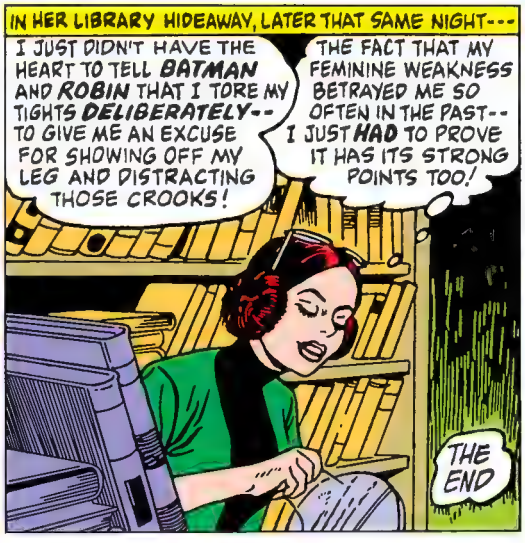
NICE RECOVERY, BATGIRL! YOU'RE IN THE GROOVE AGAIN!

ZUPP

15


A TRIO OF FISTS DISPOSES OF THE REMAINING SPORTS SPOILERS...


YOU SEE, BATGIRL? THAT WAS ONE TIME WHERE YOU TURNED A FEMININE TRAIT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE--AND THE DIS-ADVANTAGE OF THE CRIMINALS!
IT SURE WAS LUCKY FOR BATMAN AND ME THAT YOU TORE YOUR TIGHTS WHEN YOU DID--OR WE MIGHT HAVE WOUND UP ON THE SHORT END OF THE SCORE!

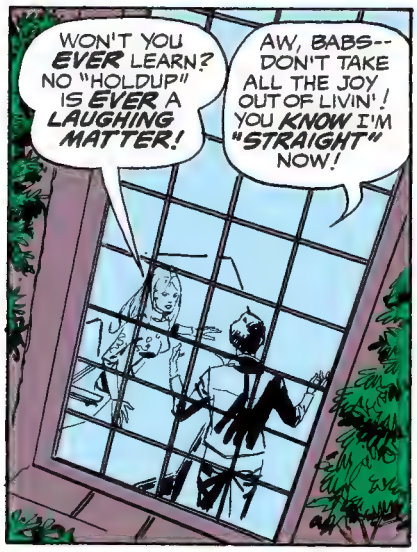

IN HER LIBRARY HIDEAWAY, LATER THAT SAME NIGHT---
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL BATMAN AND ROBIN THAT I TORE MY TIGHTS DELIBERATELY--TO GIVE ME AN EXCUSE FOR SHOWING OFF MY LEG AND DISTRACTING THOSE CROOKS!
THE FACT THAT MY FEMININE WEAKNESS BETRAYED ME SO OFTEN IN THE PAST--I JUST HAD TO PROVE IT HAS ITS STRONG POINTS TOO!
THE END

BATGIRL

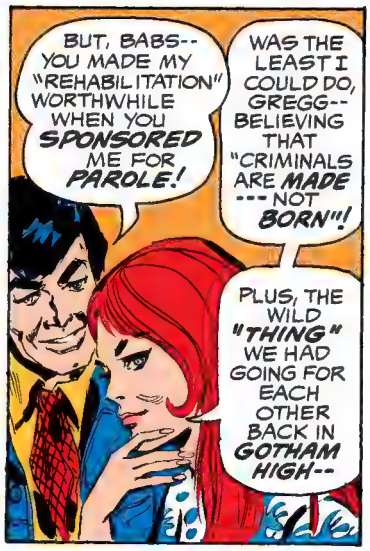
BATGIRL in "THE UNMASKING OF BATGIRL!"
WRITTEN BY FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY DON HECK
ALL IS CUSTOMARY SILENCE IN GOTHAM'S MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY AS BOOK-BORROWERS FILE QUIETLY TO THE CHECK-OUT COUNTER...
...AND PATIENTLY WAIT THEIR TURN AS HEAD-LIBRARIAN BABS (BATGIRL) GORDON STAMPS THEIR CARDS...
NEXT, PLEASE...
DON'T PANIC-- BUT... THIS IS A HOLDUP!
A "HOLDUP"... IN A PUBLIC LIBRARY?
1

MISTER--ARE YOU IN THE WRONG PLACE--!
...GREGG?! GREGG WILSON!?
IN THE FLESH, SPONSOR-GAL! I FLEW THE COOP JUST TO BE WITH YOU!

I SHOULD'VE GUESSED--A PUT-ON FROM THE CUTEST CON-MAN OF THEM ALL!
THOUGH I RECALL THE FIRST TIME GREGG TRIED TO CON BATGIRL! THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THEN...


WON'T YOU EVER LEARN? NO "HOLDUP" IS EVER A LAUGHING MATTER!
AW, BABS--DON'T TAKE ALL THE JOY OUT OF LIVIN'! YOU KNOW I'M "STRAIGHT" NOW!

I MAY BE BROKE--BUT CLEAN AS A WHISTLE SINCE I GOT OUT!
SURE, BATGIRL HAD ME PEGGED RIGHT AS A "BADDIE" WHEN SHE HAD ME SENT UP--OWTCH! DID SHE EVER...

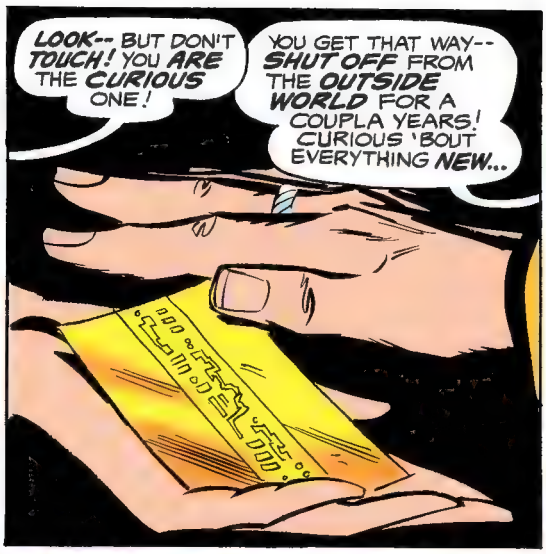

BUT, BABS--YOU MADE MY "REHABILITATION" WORTHWHILE WHEN YOU SPONSORED ME FOR PAROLE!
WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO, GREGG--BELIEVING THAT "CRIMINALS ARE MADE---NOT BORN"!
PLUS, THE WILD "THING" WE HAD GOING FOR EACH OTHER BACK IN GOTHAM HIGH--

...BUT THAT "TORCH" WENT OUT A LONG TIME AGO!
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME NOW?
FOR ONE--TO GIVE YOU A LI'L TOKEN OF APPRECIATION!
SOMETHING I MADE IN STIR... ER... PRISON, JUST FOR YOU!

A... RING?
JUST LIKE MINE! AIN'T MUCH--NOT EVEN SILVER...

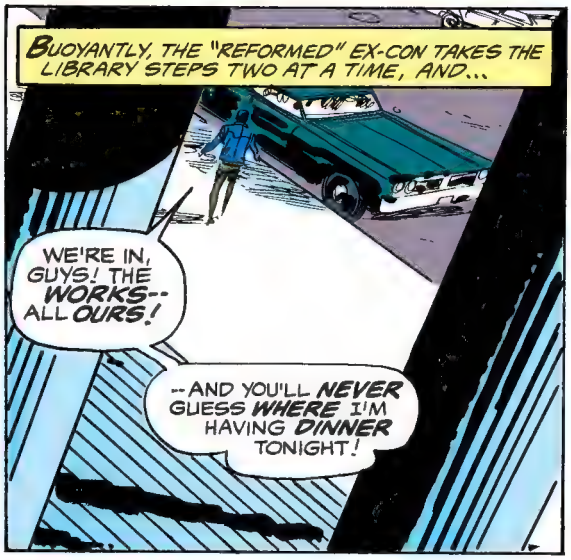
...IN FACT, IT'S JUST PLAIN STAINLESS STEEL! BUT YOU CAN'T BE CHOOSY IN JAIL...
OH, HOW TOUCHING! DON'T FEEL BADLY, IT MAY BE IRON--BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T RUST!
2

SO... STILL THE CHARMER, EH, GREGG?-- YOU MUST WANT SOMETHING IN RETURN, RIGHT?
CHECK! I NEED SOMETHING-- REAL BAD! A JOB! ANY KIND--
--BUT HONEST WORK... UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO FALL IN WITH BADDIES-- AGAIN?
NO, I WOULDN'T!
TELL YOU WHAT-- COME TO DINNER TONIGHT! I HAVE AN IDEA DAD COULD USE YOU!
AT YOUR PAD? WITH YOUR OLD MAN--THE POLICE COMMISSIONER?
DON'T PUT HIM DOWN, GREGG! HIS IDEAS ON "LAW AND ORDER" PUT REHABILITATION FIRST ON THE LIST!
YOUR BOOK-- EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "TALES OF MYSTERY"? GUESS YOU'RE NOT REALLY BORROWING THIS-- IT WAS JUST FOR THE GAG--?
EDGAR ALLAN POE
Tales of Mystery
UH-UH, BABS! I'M A BUG ON POE'S "THE GOLD BUG" AND OTHER SPOOKY YARNS!
-- THEN YOU'LL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WE HAVE POE'S ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF THE "BUG" RIGHT HERE IN GOTHAM LIBRARY!
HEY, THAT MUST BE WORTH--A FORTUNE! BET THAT DOESN'T GET BORROWED!
WE KEEP IT DOWN IN THE VAULT--
SAY, IF YOU'D LIKE A QUICK LOOK-SEE...
WHEW! SOME STRONG-ROOM! HATE TO BE WALLED IN DOWN HERE-- LIKE THAT SUCKER IN POE'S "CASK OF AMONTILLADO"...
WELL...! YOU WEREN'T PUTTING ME ON--YOU DO READ!
NOT EVERYBODY CAN GET IN HERE, GREGG! YOU'RE PRIVILEGED, KNOWING ME...
HEY, IS THAT ONE OF THOSE NEW ELECTRONIC-KEY CARDS? WITH THE MAGNETIC-CODE STRIP IN IT...?
COULD I SEE IT--?
3


LOOK-- BUT DON'T TOUCH! YOU ARE THE CURIOUS ONE!
YOU GET THAT WAY-- SHUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR A COUPLA YEARS! CURIOUS 'BOUT EVERYTHING NEW...

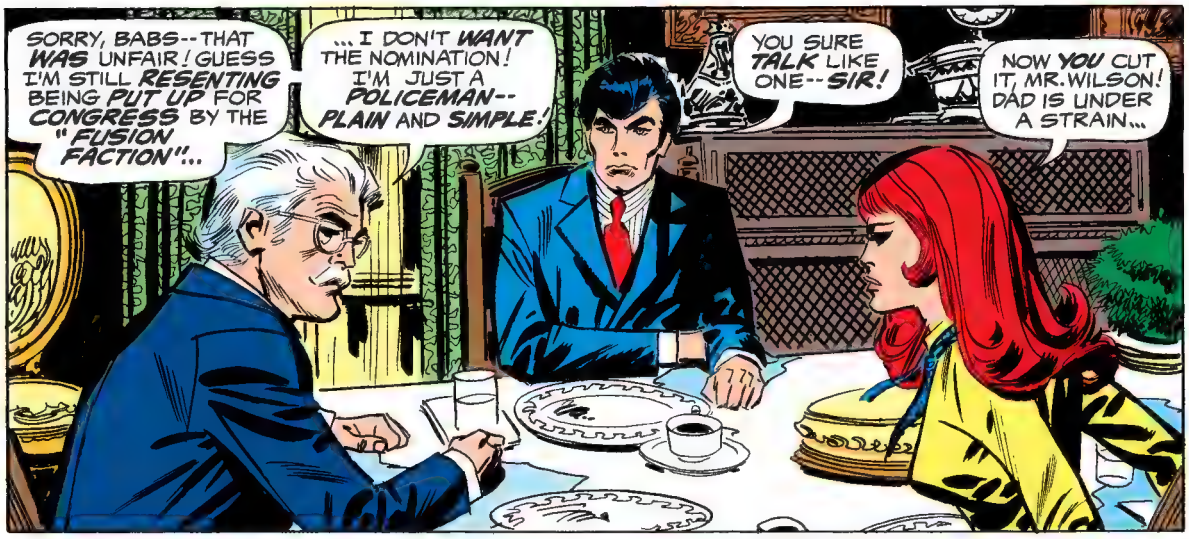
WELL, THIS MANUSCRIPT ISN'T "NEW", BUT...
NEW TO ME, BABS! IMAGINE, IN HIS OWN HAND--EDGAR ALLAN POE HIMSELF!

MINUTES LATER...
SURE AM A LUCKY GUY TODAY! THE REAL POE-- AND "EATS" WITH YOU TONIGHT, BABY--
DON'T LAY IT ON TOO THICK, GREGG! WE'RE NOT TAKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF-- TEN YEARS AGO!

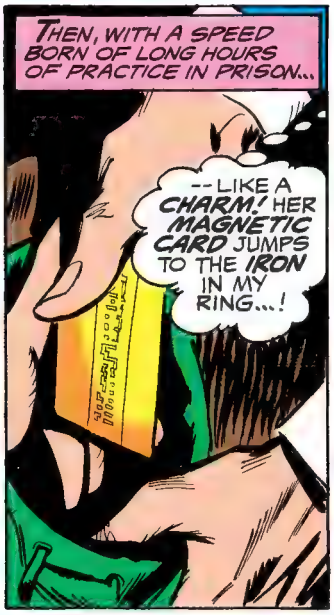

BUOYANTLY, THE "REFORMED" EX-CON TAKES THE LIBRARY STEPS TWO AT A TIME, AND...
WE'RE IN, GUYS! THE WORKS-- ALL OURS!
--AND YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHERE I'M HAVING DINNER TONIGHT!

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PAD-- ME, GREGG WILSON -- EX-CON!
BUT FIRST-- WE GET THIS MICRO-FILM DEVELOPED!

THAT NIGHT, AS DINNER DRAWS TO A CLOSE...
A JOB AT CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS? HMM-- WHY NOT?
WITH ONLY VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU, BABS--WE'RE SHORT-HANDED!
BESIDES... CONTRIBUTIONS COME IN AS CHECKS, ANYWAY!
NOW, DAD-- THAT WAS CRUEL! GREGG WANTS FAIR PAY FOR FAIR WORK-- NOTHING MORE!
4

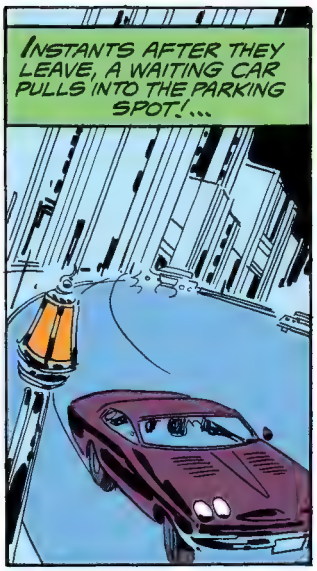

SORRY, BABS--THAT WAS UNFAIR! GUESS I'M STILL RESENTING BEING PUT UP FOR CONGRESS BY THE "FUSION FACTION"...
...I DON'T WANT THE NOMINATION! I'M JUST A POLICEMAN--PLAIN AND SIMPLE!
YOU SURE TALK LIKE ONE--SIR!
NOW YOU CUT IT, MR. WILSON! DAD IS UNDER A STRAIN...

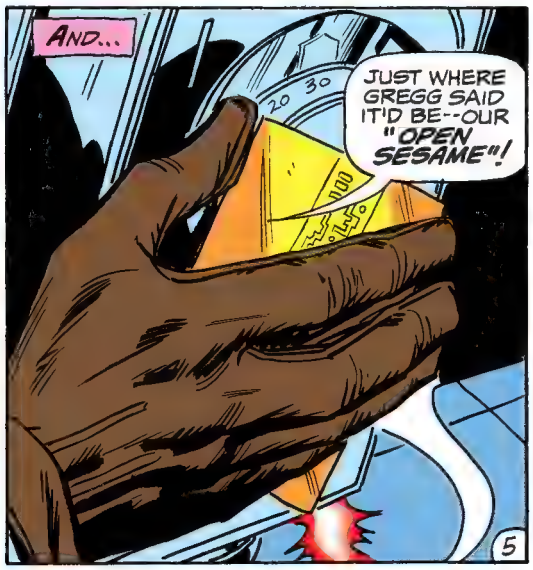
LET'S GO, GREGG--I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR FELLOW-WORKERS!
BABS--YOU'RE FORGETTING YOUR HANDBAG--I'LL BRING IT TO YOU!


THEN, WITH A SPEED BORN OF LONG HOURS OF PRACTICE IN PRISON...
--LIKE A CHARM! HER MAGNETIC CARD JUMPS TO THE IRON IN MY RING...!

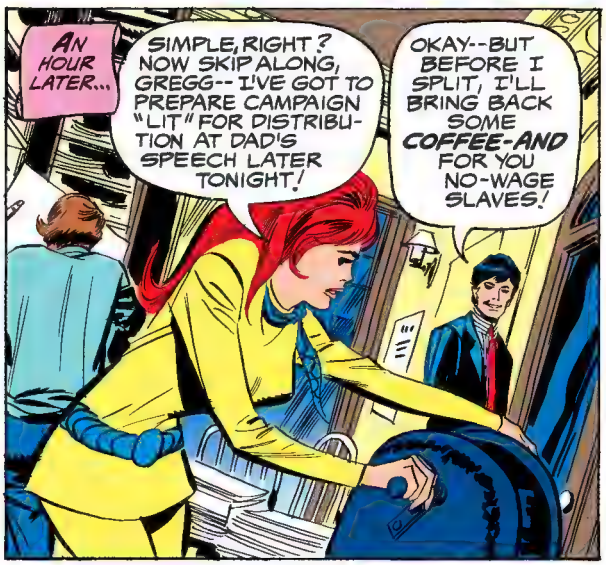
...AND WHEN THE CAPER'S OVER, I SWITCH 'EM BACK ...AND GREGG WILSON IS STILL THE "STRAIGHT" GUY TO DO-GOODER, BABS!

GET READY...

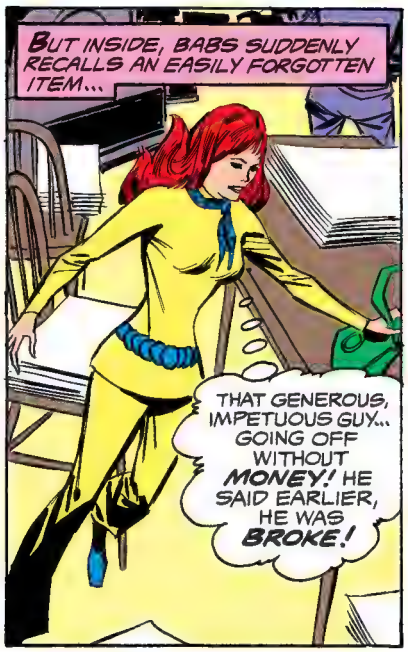

INSTANTS AFTER THEY LEAVE, A WAITING CAR PULLS INTO THE PARKING SPOT!...


AND...
JUST WHERE GREGG SAID IT'D BE--OUR "OPEN SESAME"!
5

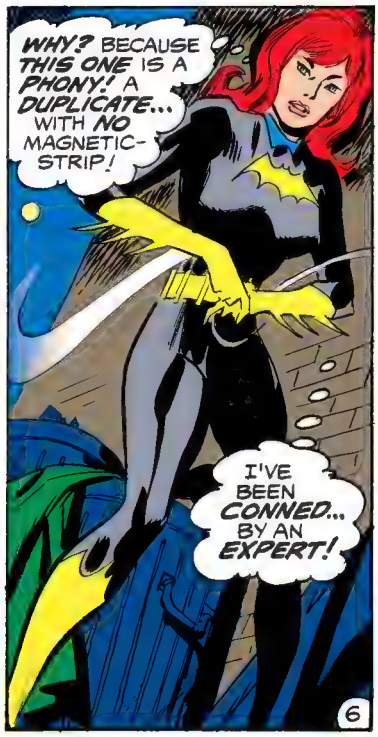
SHORTLY AFTER, AT "GORDON-FOR-CONGRESS" H.Q.--
ONCE I BRIEF YOU, GREGG--YOU CAN TAKE OFF! YOU'RE SLATED FOR DAY WORK--UNLIKE US UNPAID VOLUNTEERS!
GORDO
FOR
NGRESS


AN HOUR LATER...
SIMPLE, RIGHT? NOW SKIP ALONG, GREGG-- I'VE GOT TO PREPARE CAMPAIGN "LIT" FOR DISTRIBUTION AT DAD'S SPEECH LATER TONIGHT!
OKAY--BUT BEFORE I SPLIT, I'LL BRING BACK SOME COFFEE-AND FOR YOU NO-WAGE SLAVES!

RACING OUTSIDE...
42ND AND FIFTH--STEP ON IT!


BUT INSIDE, BABS SUDDENLY RECALLS AN EASILY FORGOTTEN ITEM...
THAT GENEROUS, IMPETUOUS GUY... GOING OFF WITHOUT MONEY! HE SAID EARLIER, HE WAS BROKE!

THAT'S FUNNY! MY MAGNETIC-KEY CARD...
BEFORE, WHEN GREGG GAVE ME THE STEEL RING... THE CARD PRACTICALLY LEAPED FOR IT!
NOW... NOTHING!

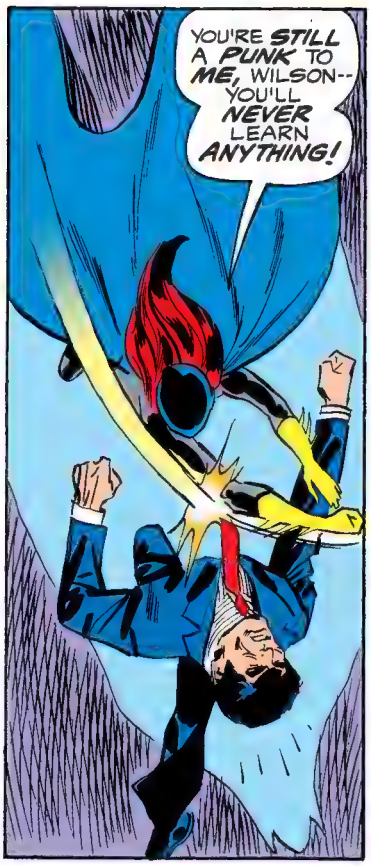

WHY? BECAUSE THIS ONE IS A PHONY! A DUPLICATE... WITH NO MAGNETIC-STRIP!
I'VE BEEN CONNED... BY AN EXPERT!
6

SHORTLY, DEEP IN THE LIBRARY VAULT...
THE FENCE SAID THIS OLD STACK O' PAPER WAS WORTH OVER A HUNDRED G'S! WHEEE-OOO...!
SNAP IT UP, GUYS!
GOTTA RETURN THIS REAL MAGNETIC-KEY-CARD TO THE DOLL'S BAG BEFORE SHE GETS NOSY!
OFF OUR BACK, GREGG! IF YOU'D GOTTEN A KEY TO THE OUTSIDE DOOR OF THIS JOINT-- IT WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN US THIS LONG TO BREAK IN!
I'M STILL LEARNIN' FROM YOU OLD PROS!
YOU WON'T NEED A KEY TO BREAK IN WHERE I'M SENDING YOU, PUNKS!
B-BATGIRL...?!
KEEP YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF THAT PRICELESS RELIC--
SPLAT!
--AND OFF ME!
7

AND NOW YOU, GREGG! THIS TIME WHEN I TOSS YOU BACK IN...
...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE KEY IS THROWN AWAY!

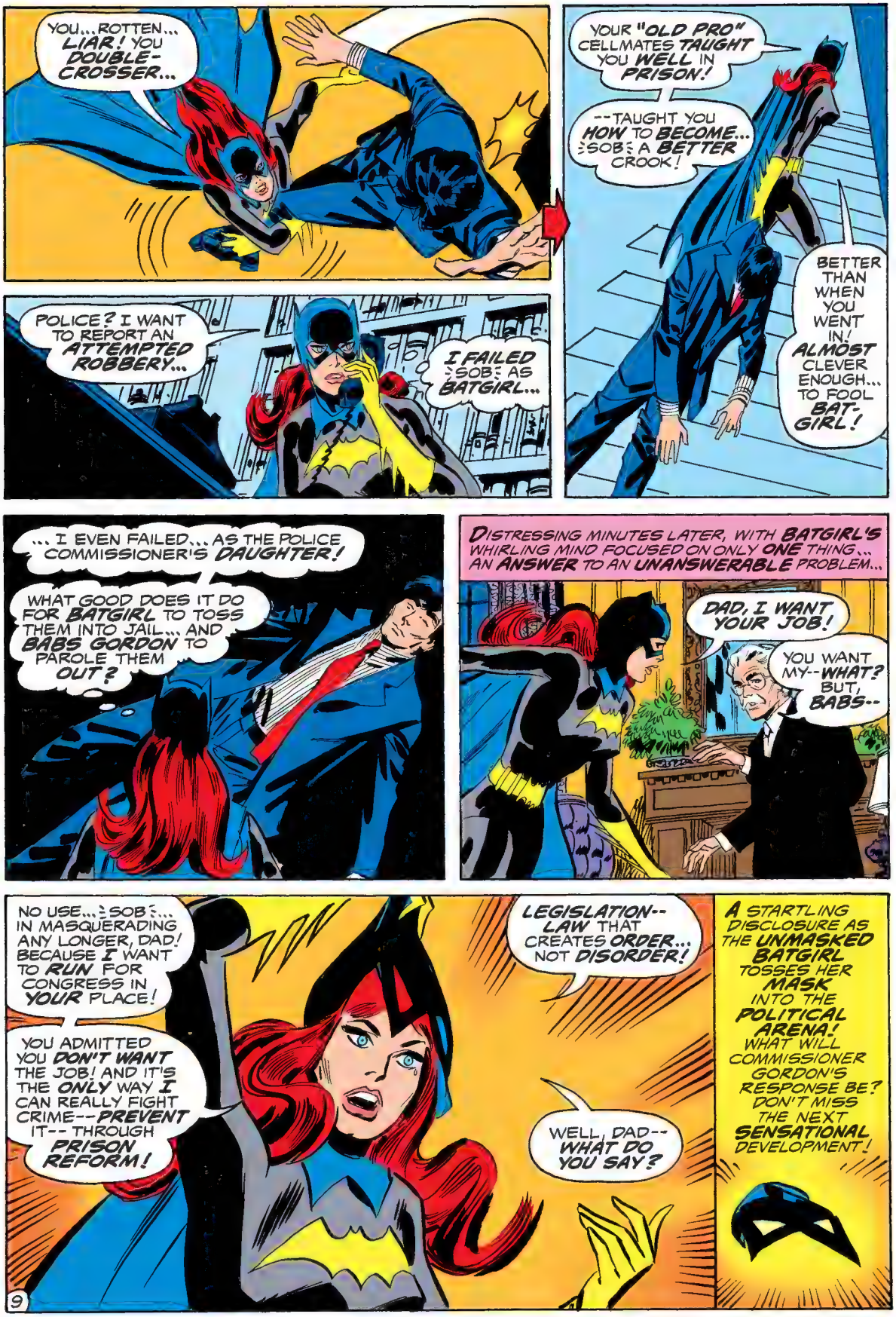
NOT THIS TIME, B-GIRL-- I'M NOT THE SAME PUNK YOU PUSHED AROUND TWO YEARS AGO!

I'VE GOT TWO YEARS OF HARD LEARNING BEHIND ME NOW--TEACHIN' FROM OLD PROS...


YOU'RE STILL A PUNK TO ME, WILSON-- YOU'LL NEVER LEARN ANYTHING!

EVEN WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU...!
NOTHING...!
NOTHING...!
:SOB:... NOTHING...

YOU'LL :SOB:... NEVER LEARN!
SHE'S C-CRAZY-- :GASP: WHY TAKE IT OUT ON--ME?
8


YOU...ROTTEN... LIAR! YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER...
YOUR "OLD PRO" CELLMATES TAUGHT YOU WELL IN PRISON!
--TAUGHT YOU HOW TO BECOME... :SOB: A BETTER CROOK!
BETTER THAN WHEN YOU WENT IN! ALMOST CLEVER ENOUGH... TO FOOL BAT-GIRL!
POLICE? I WANT TO REPORT AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY...
I FAILED :SOB: AS BATGIRL...
... I EVEN FAILED... AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S DAUGHTER!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO FOR BATGIRL TO TOSS THEM INTO JAIL... AND BABS GORDON TO PAROLE THEM OUT?
DISTRESSING MINUTES LATER, WITH BATGIRL'S WHIRLING MIND FOCUSED ON ONLY ONE THING... AN ANSWER TO AN UNANSWERABLE PROBLEM...
DAD, I WANT YOUR JOB!
YOU WANT MY--WHAT? BUT, BABS--
NO USE... :SOB:... IN MASQUERADING ANY LONGER, DAD! BECAUSE I WANT TO RUN FOR CONGRESS IN YOUR PLACE!
YOU ADMITTED YOU DON'T WANT THE JOB! AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN REALLY FIGHT CRIME--PREVENT IT-- THROUGH PRISON REFORM!
LEGISLATION--LAW THAT CREATES ORDER... NOT DISORDER!
WELL, DAD--WHAT DO YOU SAY?
A STARTLING DISCLOSURE AS THE UNMASKED BATGIRL TOSSES HER MASK INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA! WHAT WILL COMMISSIONER GORDON'S RESPONSE BE? DON'T MISS THE NEXT SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT!
9

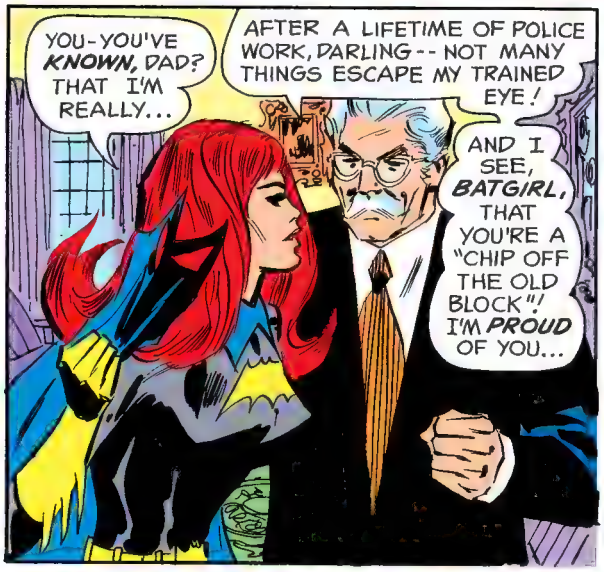
BATGIRL in "CANDIDATE FOR DANGER!"

WRITTEN BY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY: DON HECK

DISTRAUGHT OVER HER CONTINUING FAILURE TO *PREVENT* CRIME AS *"BATGIRL", BABS GORDON*... THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S DAUGHTER... IS PROPELLED INTO A *GOTHAM-SHAKING DECISION!* AND SIMULTANEOUSLY... BLOWS HER "COVER"!...

DAD, I WANT *YOUR* JOB!

BABS—YOU MEAN--YOU WANT TO *RUN* FOR *CONGRESS* IN *MY* PLACE? BUT, *BABS*...

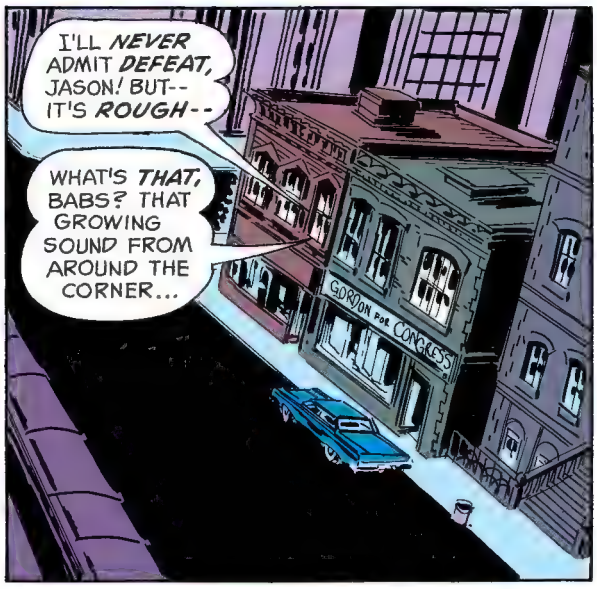


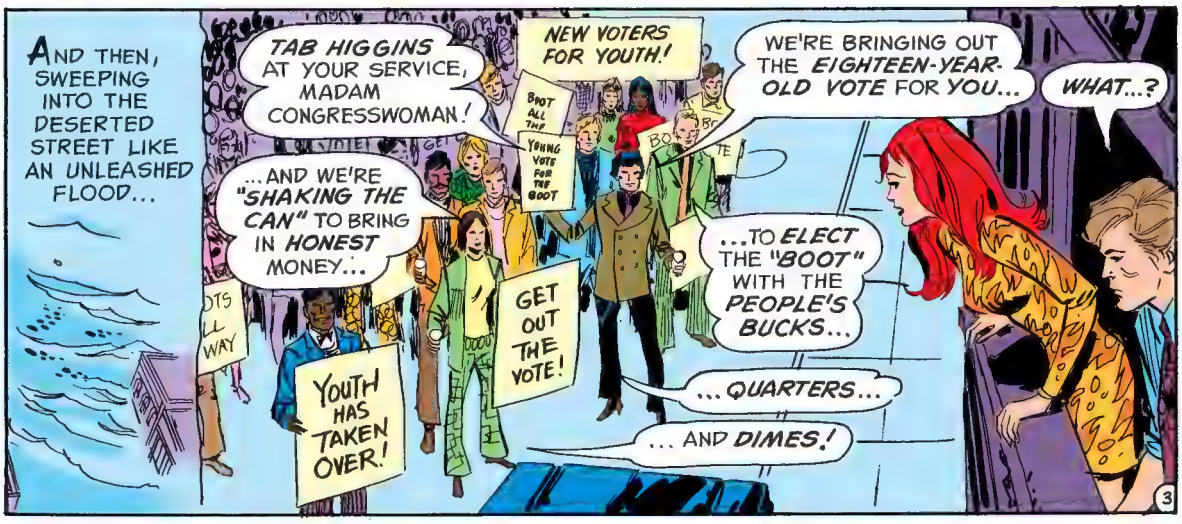
IN THE HECTIC DAYS FOLLOWING BABS' DRAMATIC DECISION TO RUN AGAINST THE OLD-GUARD CANDIDATES IN A SPECIAL BY-ELECTION...
LACKING THE TV-CAMPAIGN FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HER OPPONENTS, BABS GOES DIRECTLY TO THE "MAN IN THE STREET"!
--BUT... WILL THEY CLEAN UP THE SLUMS? CREATE NEW JOBS..? STOP DOPE-TRAFFIC...?
I SAY THEY WON'T! I SAY--BOOT THE RASCALS OUT--ELECT ME!
GOTHAM POST
POLICE COMMISSIONER OUT OF RACE
GOTHAM NEWS
MR. GORDON STEPS DOWN FOR MISS GORDON
Gotham Times
BABS GORDON NEW CANDIDATE OF FUSION FACTION
...TURNING A BATGIRL SYMBOL, SECOND ONLY TO HER MASK AND CAPE, INTO A CAMPAIGN SLOGAN AND BATTLE CRY!
LIKE WILDFIRE, THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE GIRL WHO IS REALLY BATGIRL... COMES ACROSS TO THE VOTERS LOUD AND CLEAR! AND SOON, VOICES PICK UP THE REFRAIN...
GIVE 'EM THE BOOT! THE BOOT...
...THE BOOT!
SEND THE "BOOT" TO CONGRESS!
GET OUT THE VOTE--TO BOOT 'EM OUT!
2

GRUELING DAYS AND ENDLESS NIGHTS LATER...
OH, JASON -- AT TIMES IT SEEMS SO HOPELESS! THE PUBLIC CHEERS ME -- PATS MY BACK -- SHOUTS SLOGANS...
...BUT WHEN THEY'RE ALONE BEHIND THOSE DRAWN CURTAINS OF THE VOTING-BOOTH...
VOTE

...WHOM WILL THEY VOTE FOR? ME, A YOUNG NEWCOMER -- OR THE SAME OLD PROS?
THIS IS A NEW... YOUNG... ERA, BABS! I HAVE FAITH IN IT -- AND YOU MUSTN'T LOSE YOURS!

THE FEW EAGER VOLUNTEERS WE HAVE ARE NO MATCH FOR OUR OPPONENTS' WELL-PAID CREWS WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK!
FOR CONGRESS


I'LL NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT, JASON! BUT -- IT'S ROUGH --
WHAT'S THAT, BABS? THAT GROWING SOUND FROM AROUND THE CORNER...
GORDON FOR CONGRESS

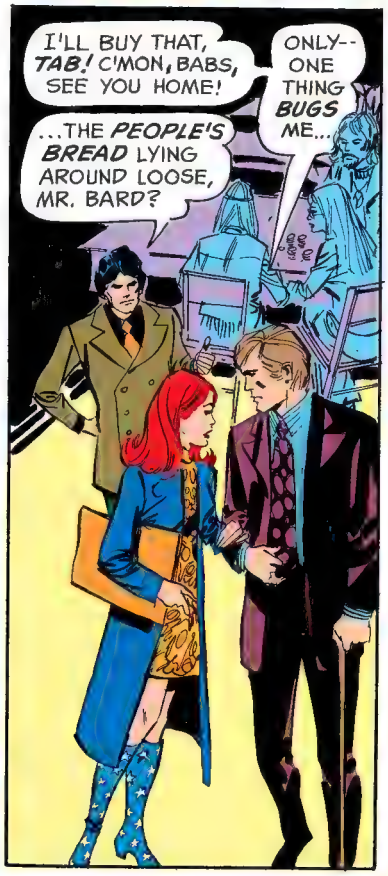

AND THEN, SWEEPING INTO THE DESERTED STREET LIKE AN UNLEASHED FLOOD...
TAB HIGGINS AT YOUR SERVICE, MADAM CONGRESSWOMAN!
NEW VOTERS FOR YOUTH!
WE'RE BRINGING OUT THE EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD VOTE FOR YOU...
WHAT...?
...AND WE'RE "SHAKING THE CAN" TO BRING IN HONEST MONEY...
YOUTH HAS TAKEN OVER!
GET OUT THE VOTE!
...TO ELECT THE "BOOT" WITH THE PEOPLE'S BUCKS...
...QUARTERS...
...AND DIMES!
3

I ⁝SOB⁝ DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
YOU'VE SAID IT ALL ALREADY, MISS BABS --THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE! YOU REALLY GOT TO US...

LET ME BE THE FIRST TO HAND OVER YOUR NEW CAMPAIGN FUNDS!
AND THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM! OUT THERE...
OH, MR. HIGGINS-- TAB-- I'M TOUCHED!

DUMP THE DAY'S PROCEEDS ON THE TABLES, KIDS! START COUNTING-- WE GOTTA RAISE MUCHO TV-TIME FOR OUR GAL!
BABS "BOOTS" GORDON

THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING! WE DON'T FIGURE ON HAVING ENOUGH LOOT YET--BUT TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY!
YOU GET SOME REST-- YOU LOOK REAL SPACED-OUT!


I'LL BUY THAT, TAB! C'MON, BABS, SEE YOU HOME!
ONLY-- ONE THING BUGS ME...
...THE PEOPLE'S BREAD LYING AROUND LOOSE, MR. BARD?

AFRAID IT MIGHT TEMPT A RIP-OFF? SURE MIGHT-- BUT WE DON'T TRUST "ESTABLISHMENT" BANKS!
WE'LL DEFEND IT OURSELVES-- AGAINST ALL COMERS!
4

AND ON THE CLOSING NIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN...
THOSE GREAT KIDS, JASON... THEY'VE BEEN POUNDING PAVEMENTS DAY AND NIGHT-- KNOCKING ON DOORS...
YET, ACCORDING TO TAB HIGGINS-- OFFICIAL "ACCOUNTANT" --WE'RE STILL A THOUSAND SHORT OF THE FIFTEEN WE NEED FOR TV-TIME!

THEY'LL COME THROUGH-- I KNOW THEY WILL!
HOPE SO! THE STATION-MANAGER IS BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO HOLD THE TIME-SLOT OPEN FOR US...

BUT BEFORE BABS CAN BEGIN HER SPEECH...
M-MISS BABS-- MISS BABS!
WE'VE BEEN TAKEN! RIPPED-OFF!

MITCH-- YOU'VE BEEN HIT!
--PISTOL-WHIPPED! HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST THEIR GUNS!
THREE CREEPS-- MASKED WITH SILK-STOCKINGS! THEIR LEADER SLUGGED ME...

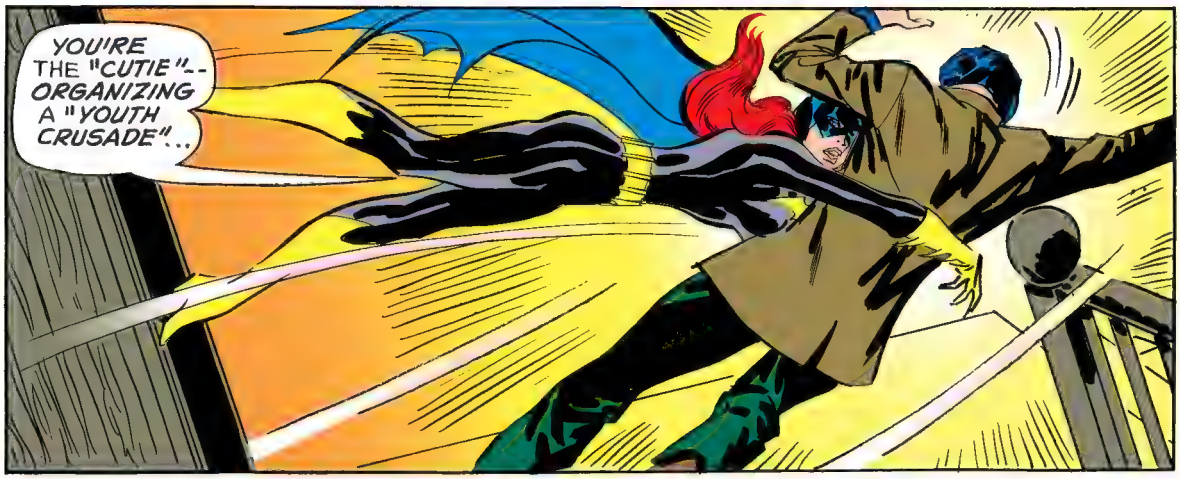
JASON, GET HIM MEDICAL TREATMENT-- CALL THE POLICE! I'M GOING BACK TO CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS...
...AS BATGIRL!
I KNOW WHO DID THIS...!

SHORTLY...
B-BATGIRL..?!
TELL ME-- WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
5

I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE HOLDUP TRIO--CAN YOU ADD ANY DETAILS?
ONLY--ONLY THAT WHEN THEIR LEADER CLUBBED MITCH--I SCREAMED! DROPPED MY BAG IN FRIGHT, AND... AND...
DID YOU FOLLOW THEM OUT WHEN THEY FLED? THOSE LOOK LIKE WOMEN'S BOOT-PRINTS LEAVING A FACE POWDER TRAIL...
M-ME...? NO--I JUST FOLDED RIGHT HERE, SCARED STIFF! THEN MITCH RAN FOR HELP...
SUDDENLY!...
GOT ANOTHER LOAD OF VOTER'S LOOT--- HEY, BATGIRL...? WHAT'S UP...?
HOLD IT, TAB-- RIGHT THERE! DON'T MESS UP THOSE FOOTPRINTS-- THEY'RE CLUES TO A ROBBERY!
WELL, THEY SURE AREN'T MINE! SEE-- I'M CLEAN!
NO ONE ACCUSED YOU OF ANYTHING! AND YOU SURE COVERED YOUR TRACKS WELL...
...BY WIPING OFF THOSE TRICK ROCKER-BOTTOMS-- AND RETURNING HERE INNOCENT-LIKE! BUT ONE THING YOU COULDN'T COVER...!
WHAT CLUE TO TAB'S GUILT WAS RIGHT UNDER BATGIRL'S NOSE...AND YOURS... EVER SINCE WE MET HIM?
6

YOU CAN'T HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU PISTOL-WHIPPED MITCH! HE WAS BRUISED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS HEAD...
...THE SIDE A LEFT-HANDER WOULD HIT! AND YOU'RE...

YE-AH, I'M A LEFTY! AND YOU'RE TOO "CUTE", BATGIRL...
... TO LIVE!
GORDON! FOR CONGRESS


YOU'RE THE "CUTIE"-- ORGANIZING A "YOUTH CRUSADE"...

...TO INNOCENTLY COLLECT FUNDS ALL OVER GOTHAM -- SO YOU COULD ROB THE "POOR BOX"!

HUH! I WAS JUST TAKIN' THE "PUBLIC" BEFORE MISS GOODY-BOOTS GOT HER GREEDY CLAWS IN THEIR POCKETS!

POLITICIANS ARE ALL ALIKE-- ON THE TAKE!
7

SWINGING AROUND THE CORNER ON THE RUN...
A GAT--QUICK! BATGIRL'S ON MY TAIL...
COMIN' UP, TAB-BOY...
THEY'RE PITCHING-- BUT YOU'RE CATCHING, TAB-BABY!
AND BEFORE TAB'S RIP-OFF BUDDIES CAN DRIVE OFF...
AND YOU HEELS ARE GETTING THE BOOT...!
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER THE DOMINOED DARE-DOLL BRINGS IN HER CAPTIVES AND THE RECOVERED CAMPAIGN-FUNDS...
ANYTHING PERSONAL IN YOUR COMING TO CANDIDATE GORDON'S AID, BATGIRL?
YOU MIGHT SAY-- WE BOTH BELIEVE IN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S PURSE!
10 P.M. THAT NIGHT--FOLLOWING HURRIED LAST-MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS...
POLITICAL ANALYSTS INTERPRET BATGIRL'S VEILED COMMENTS TONIGHT, AS...
...AN ENDORSEMENT OF BABS, THE BOOT-- FOR CONGRESS!
I DIDN'T PLAN FOR "BATGIRL" TO COME OUT FOR ME, DAD! I DON'T BELIEVE IN "INFLUENCE PEDDLING"-- YOU KNOW THAT!
BUT--WILL IT TIP THE ELECTION IN MY FAVOR?
AND NOW WE BRING YOU A PRE-TAPED PAID POLITICAL SPEECH!
DON'T MISS THE ELECTION RESULTS... NEXT!
8

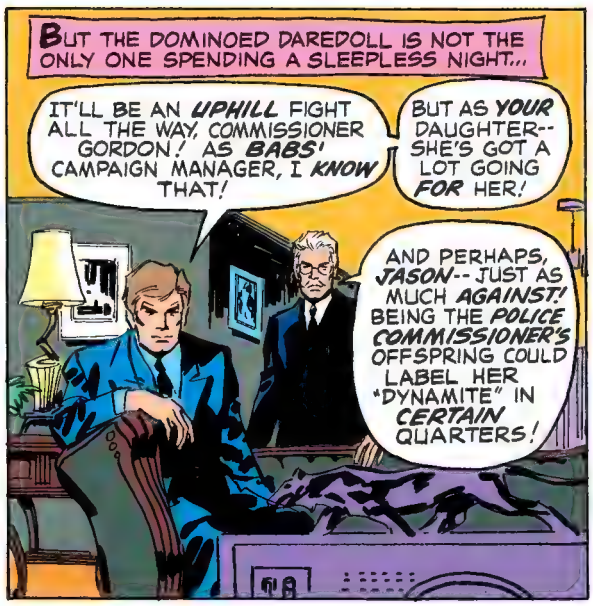
BATGIRL'S LAST CASE

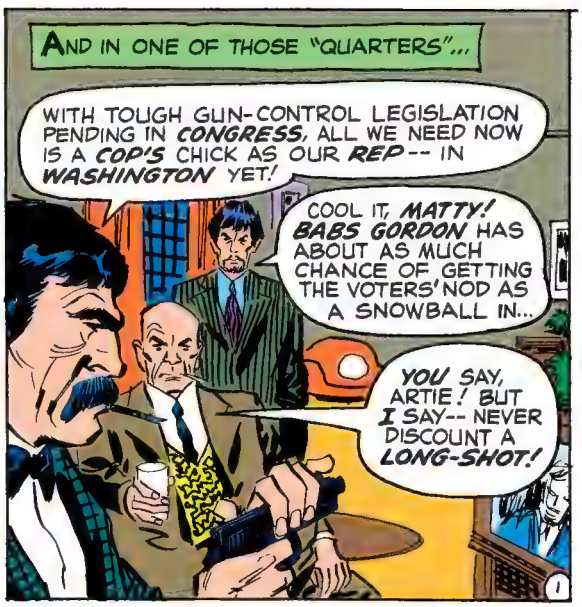
STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY: DON HECK

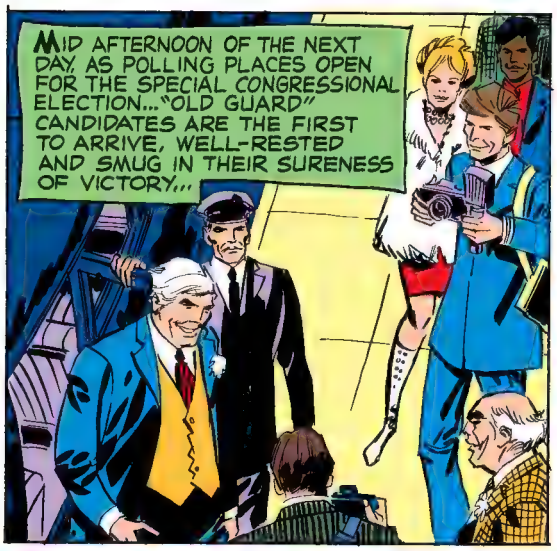
ELECTION EVE-- BATGIRL'S UNPLANNED 11th HOUR CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF HER ALTER EGO, BABS GORDON, HAS TOSSED AN UNKNOWN ELEMENT INTO THE TENSE POLITICAL ARENA!...

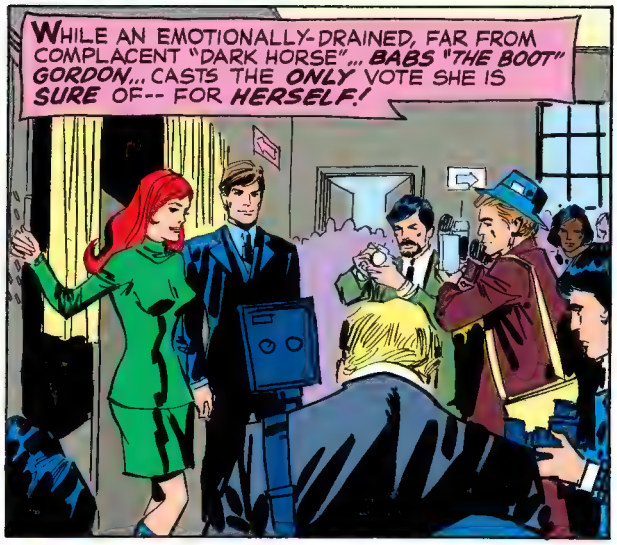
WILL IT WORK FOR OR AGAINST ME?.. HOW WILL THE ELECTORATE VOTE--

--FOR AN UNTRIED, YOUNG CRUSADER... OR THE ESTABLISHED OLD GUARD?

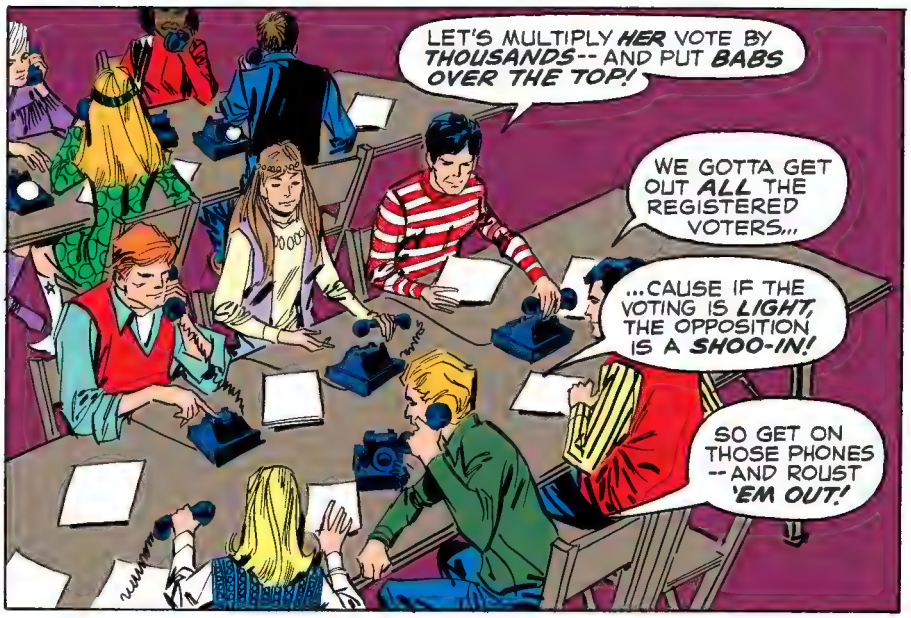




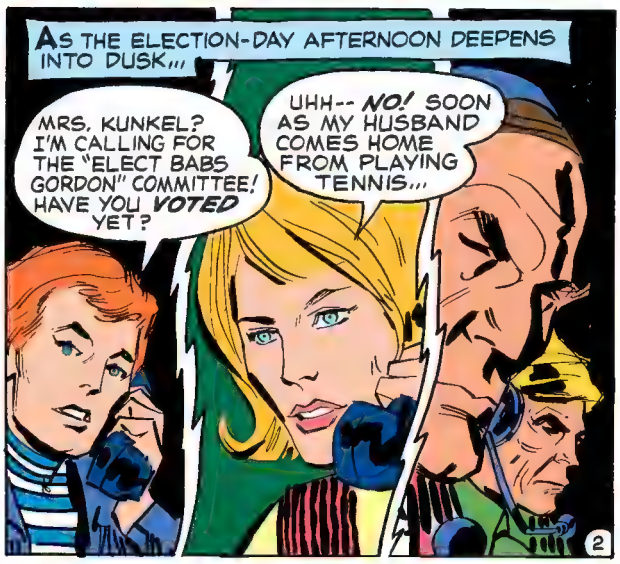

MID AFTERNOON OF THE NEXT DAY, AS POLLING PLACES OPEN FOR THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION...“OLD GUARD” CANDIDATES ARE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE, WELL-RESTED AND SMUG IN THEIR SURENESS OF VICTORY...

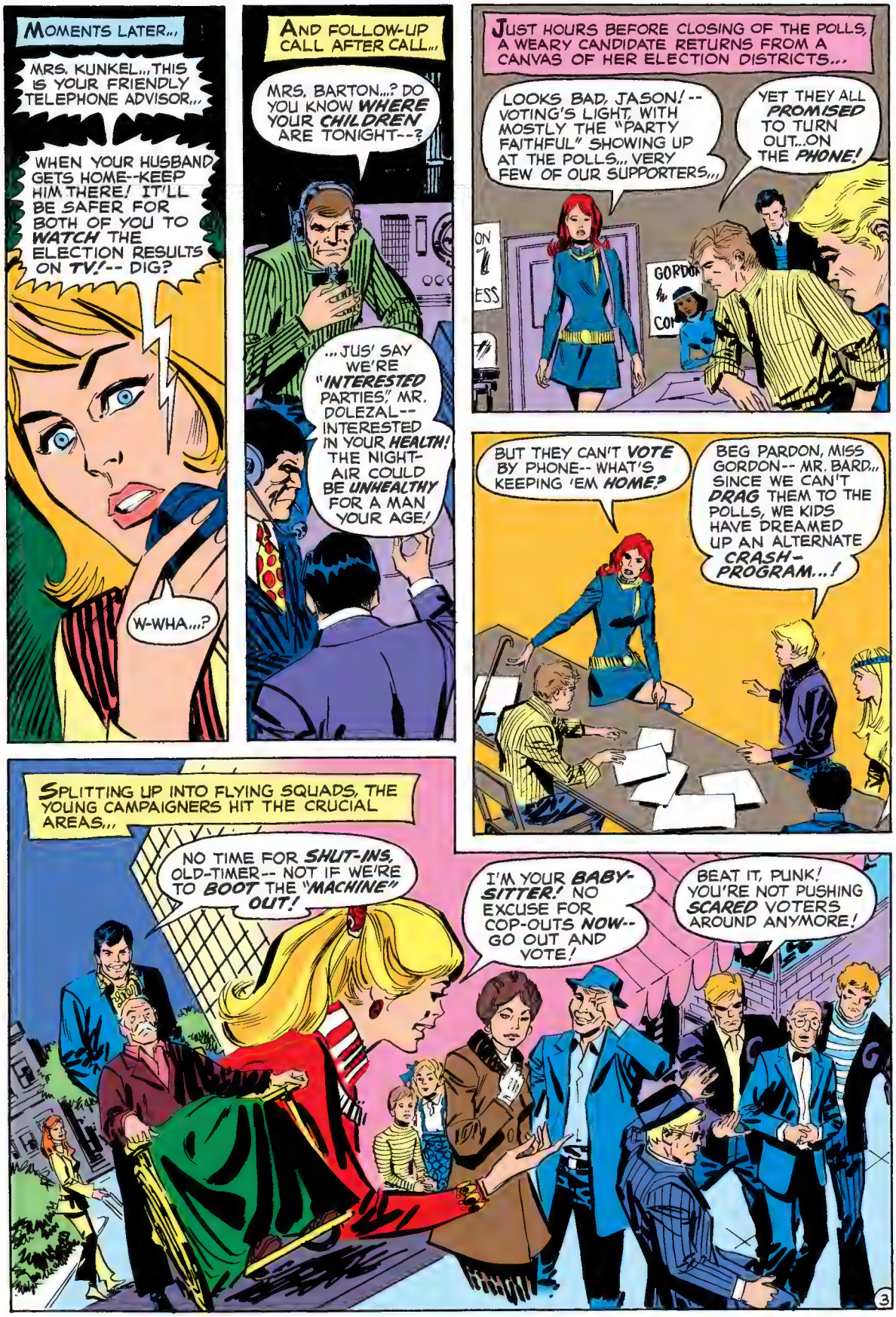

WHILE AN EMOTIONALLY-DRAINED, FAR FROM COMPLACENT “DARK HORSE”... BABS “THE BOOT” GORDON... CASTS THE ONLY VOTE SHE IS SURE OF-- FOR HERSELF!

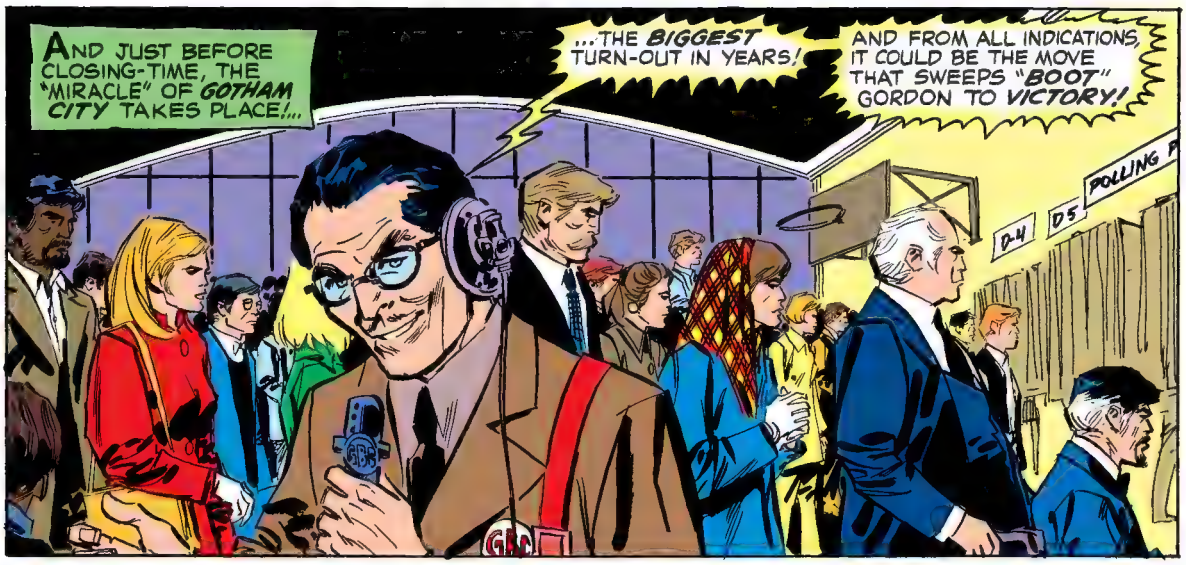
GORDON
FOR
CONGRESS
AND AT BABS' CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS, VOLUNTEER “YOUTH BRIGADES” CARRY ON A ONE-SIDED FIGHT!...

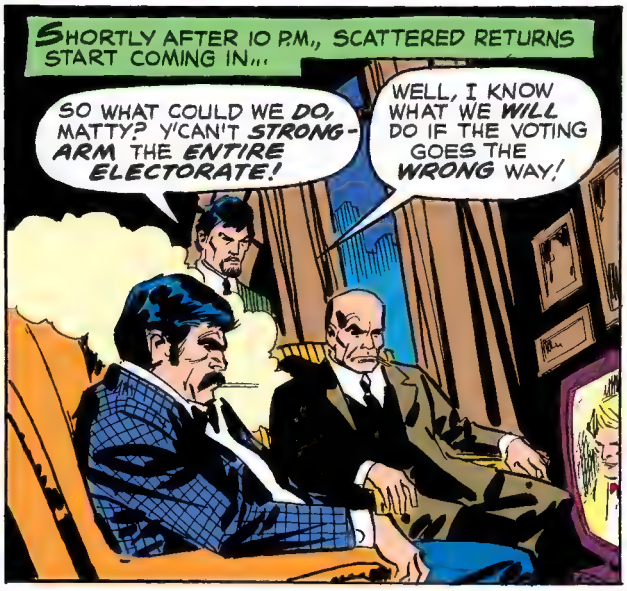

LET'S MULTIPLY HER VOTE BY THOUSANDS-- AND PUT BABS OVER THE TOP!
WE GOTTA GET OUT ALL THE REGISTERED VOTERS...
...CAUSE IF THE VOTING IS LIGHT, THE OPPOSITION IS A SHOO-IN!
SO GET ON THOSE PHONES --AND ROUST 'EM OUT!

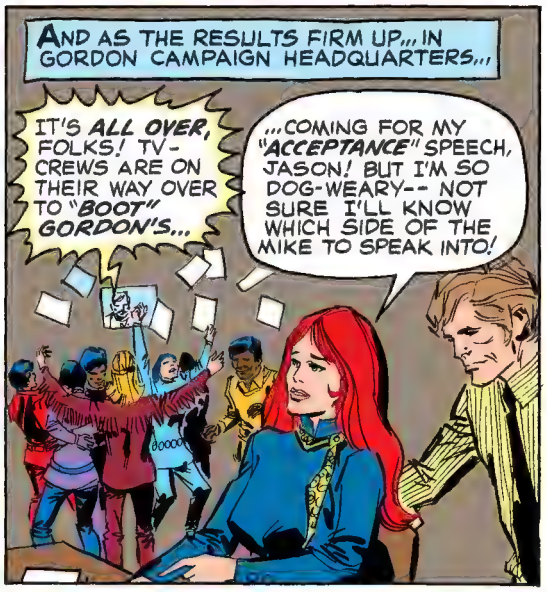
WHILE ACROSS THE STREET...
YEAH, JIM-BOY-- WE GOT OUR OWN “PHONE SQUAD” TAPPED IN ON GORDON'S “GET OUT THE VOTE” KID-SQUAD...
LIKE I SAID, MATTY-- WE TURN THIS ELECTION INTO A SURE THING FOR US!


AS THE ELECTION-DAY AFTERNOON DEEPENS INTO DUSK...
MRS. KUNKEL? I'M CALLING FOR THE “ELECT BABS GORDON” COMMITTEE! HAVE YOU VOTED YET?
UHH-- NO! SOON AS MY HUSBAND COMES HOME FROM PLAYING TENNIS...
2

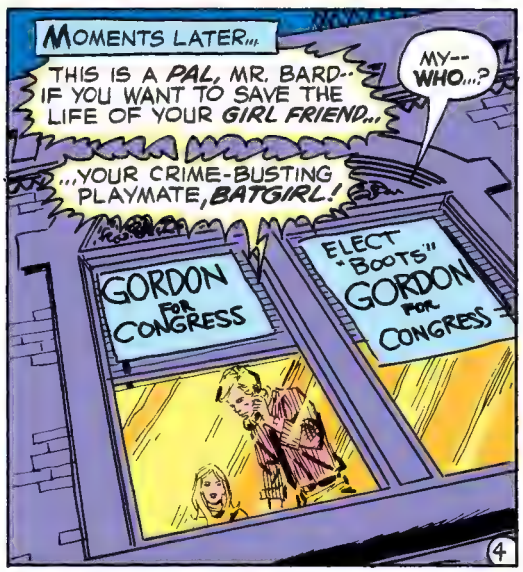

MOMENTS LATER...
MRS. KUNKEL...THIS IS YOUR FRIENDLY TELEPHONE ADVISOR...
WHEN YOUR HUSBAND GETS HOME--KEEP HIM THERE! IT'LL BE SAFER FOR BOTH OF YOU TO WATCH THE ELECTION RESULTS ON TV!-- DIG?
W-WHA...?
AND FOLLOW-UP CALL AFTER CALL...
MRS. BARTON...? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE TONIGHT--?
...JUS' SAY WE'RE "INTERESTED PARTIES," MR. DOLEZAL-- INTERESTED IN YOUR HEALTH! THE NIGHT-AIR COULD BE UNHEALTHY FOR A MAN YOUR AGE!
JUST HOURS BEFORE CLOSING OF THE POLLS, A WEARY CANDIDATE RETURNS FROM A CANVAS OF HER ELECTION DISTRICTS...
LOOKS BAD, JASON! -- VOTING'S LIGHT, WITH MOSTLY THE "PARTY FAITHFUL" SHOWING UP AT THE POLLS... VERY FEW OF OUR SUPPORTERS...
YET THEY ALL PROMISED TO TURN OUT...ON THE PHONE!
BUT THEY CAN'T VOTE BY PHONE-- WHAT'S KEEPING 'EM HOME?
BEG PARDON, MISS GORDON-- MR. BARD... SINCE WE CAN'T DRAG THEM TO THE POLLS, WE KIDS HAVE DREAMED UP AN ALTERNATE CRASH-PROGRAM...!
SPLITTING UP INTO FLYING SQUADS, THE YOUNG CAMPAIGNERS HIT THE CRUCIAL AREAS...
NO TIME FOR SHUT-INS, OLD-TIMER-- NOT IF WE'RE TO BOOT THE "MACHINE" OUT!
I'M YOUR BABY-SITTER! NO EXCUSE FOR COP-OUTS NOW-- GO OUT AND VOTE!
BEAT IT, PUNK! YOU'RE NOT PUSHING SCARED VOTERS AROUND ANYMORE!
3


AND JUST BEFORE CLOSING-TIME, THE "MIRACLE" OF GOTHAM CITY TAKES PLACE!...
...THE BIGGEST TURN-OUT IN YEARS!
AND FROM ALL INDICATIONS, IT COULD BE THE MOVE THAT SWEEPS "BOOT" GORDON TO VICTORY!
D-4
D5
POLLING P


SHORTLY AFTER 10 P.M., SCATTERED RETURNS START COMING IN...
SO WHAT COULD WE DO, MATTY? Y'CAN'T STRONG-ARM THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE!
WELL, I KNOW WHAT WE WILL DO IF THE VOTING GOES THE WRONG WAY!


AND AS THE RESULTS FIRM UP... IN GORDON CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS...
IT'S ALL OVER, FOLKS! TV-CREWS ARE ON THEIR WAY OVER TO "BOOT" GORDON'S...
...COMING FOR MY "ACCEPTANCE" SPEECH, JASON! BUT I'M SO DOG-WEARY-- NOT SURE I'LL KNOW WHICH SIDE OF THE MIKE TO SPEAK INTO!

...OTHER CANDIDATES CONCEDE THE ELECTION TO MISS GORDON...
THAT'S OUR CUE, BOYS! GET GOING...
REMEMBER TO GET AT HER, Y'GOT TO TAKE HER WATCHDOG, JASON BARD-- FIRST!

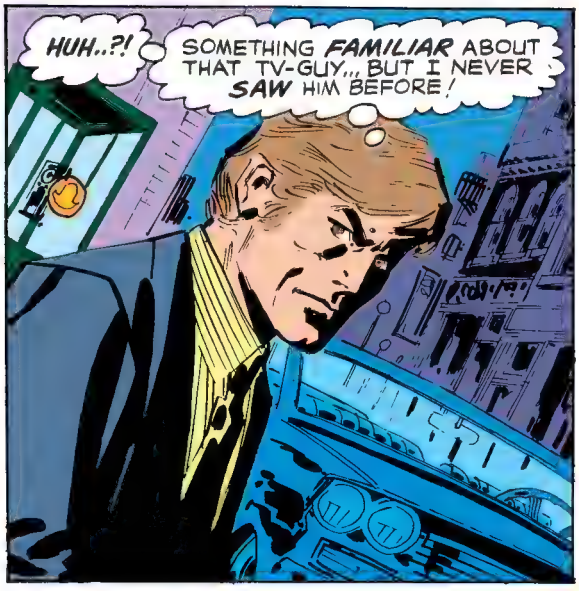

MOMENTS LATER...
THIS IS A PAL, MR. BARD-- IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF YOUR GIRL FRIEND...
MY-- WHO...?
...YOUR CRIME-BUSTING PLAYMATE, BATGIRL!
GORDON FOR CONGRESS
ELECT "BOOTS" GORDON FOR CONGRESS
4

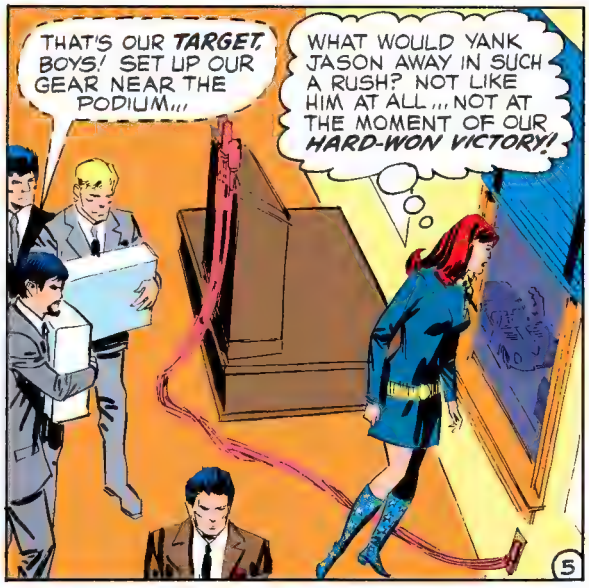
IN TEN MINUTES SHE'LL BE WALKIN' INTO A DEATH-TRAP AT GOTHAM PARK ZOO... BY THE SEAL TANK!

KLIK!
JASON-- WHAT'S UP? LEAVING-- WHEN I'M ABOUT TO...
NO TIME NOW, BABS-- THIS IS PRIORITY!
NO TIME EVEN TO TRY AND CONTACT BATGIRL-- SHE'D BE ON HER WAY THERE BY NOW!

LOOK!--BARD FELL FOR IT!
HANDLE THAT "TV GEAR" WITH CARE, MEN...

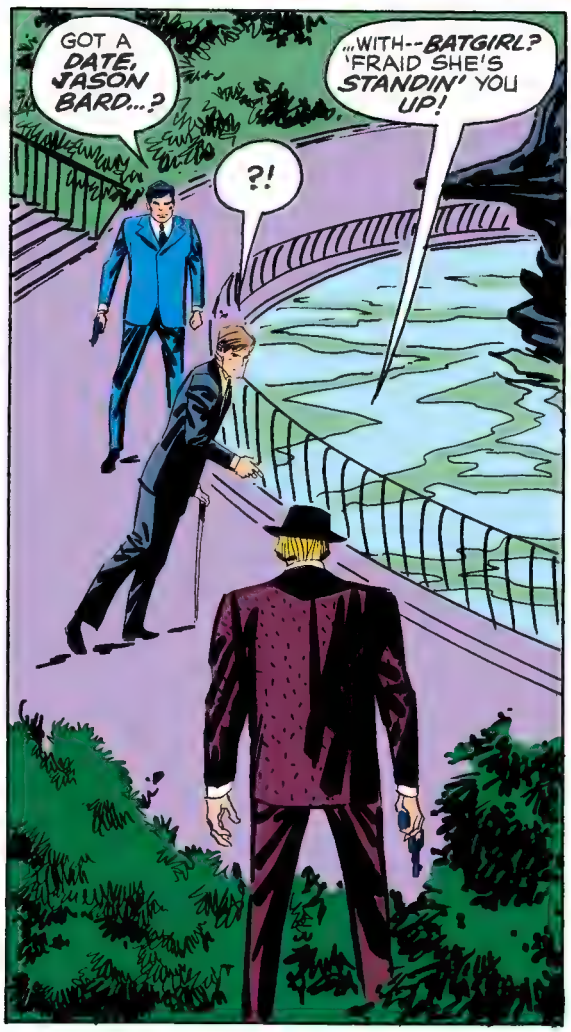
OOOPS! SORRY-- I'M IN A MEAN HURRY!
SO I SEE, PAL!
GBC
TV


HUH..?!
SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT TV-GUY... BUT I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE!


THAT'S OUR TARGET, BOYS! SET UP OUR GEAR NEAR THE PODIUM...
WHAT WOULD YANK JASON AWAY IN SUCH A RUSH? NOT LIKE HIM AT ALL... NOT AT THE MOMENT OF OUR HARD-WON VICTORY!
5

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY UPSET JASON LIKE THAT? A THREAT AGAINST MY LIFE...OR BATGIRL'S? BETTER TAIL HIM...
HEY, JIM-BOY-- THE BABS BABE IS LEAVIN'!
SHE'LL BE BACK! WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS HER OWN "GOING-AWAY" PARTY, HUNH?
GBI

MINUTES LATER...
LOOKS LIKE I'M ON TIME! NO ONE HERE YET...


GOT A DATE, JASON BARD...?
?!
...WITH--BATGIRL? 'FRAID SHE'S STANDIN' YOU UP!

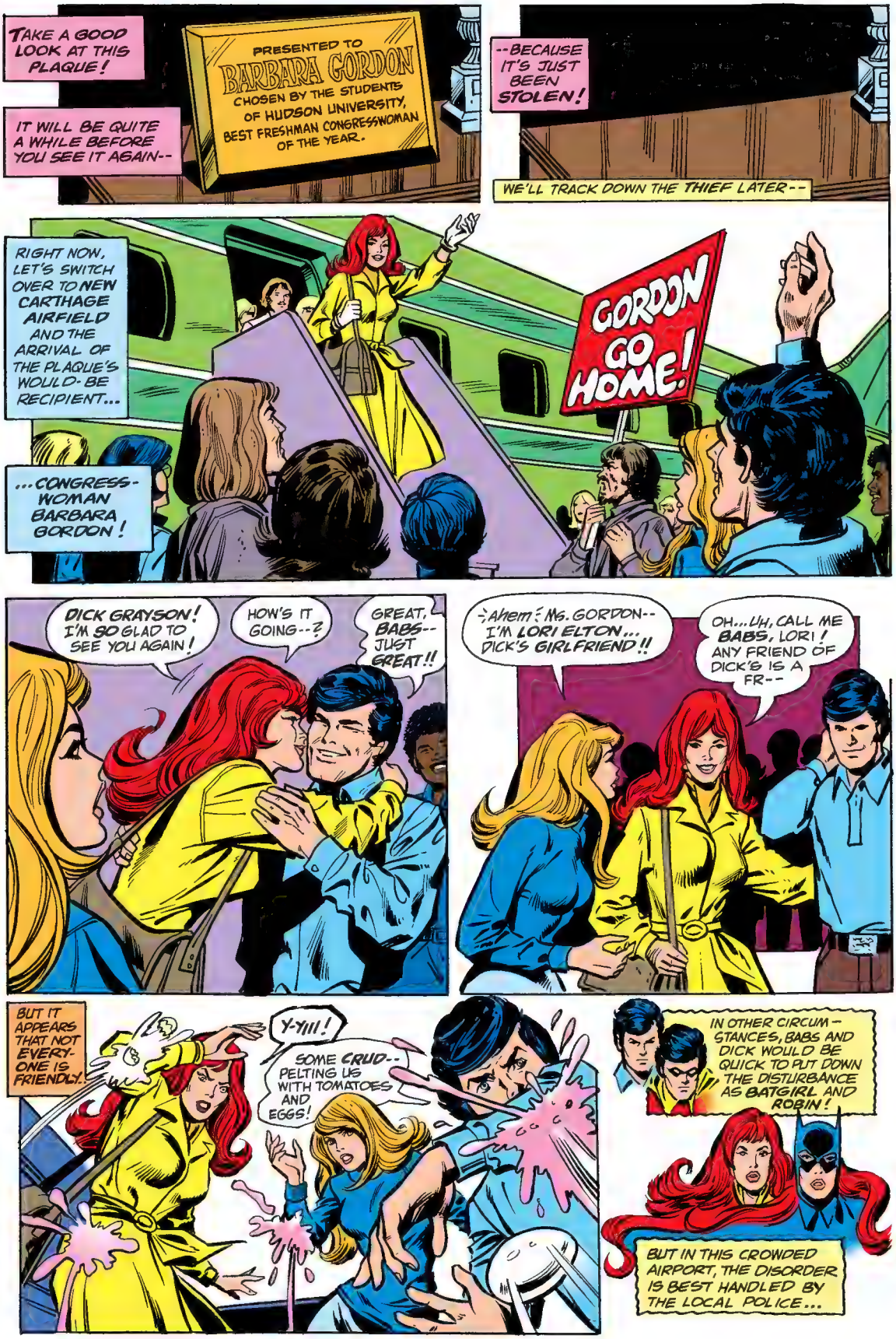
'FRAID SHE'S NOT, CREEP! TAKE YOUR MAN, JASON-- I'LL...
B-BATGIRL?! YOU AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...!
6

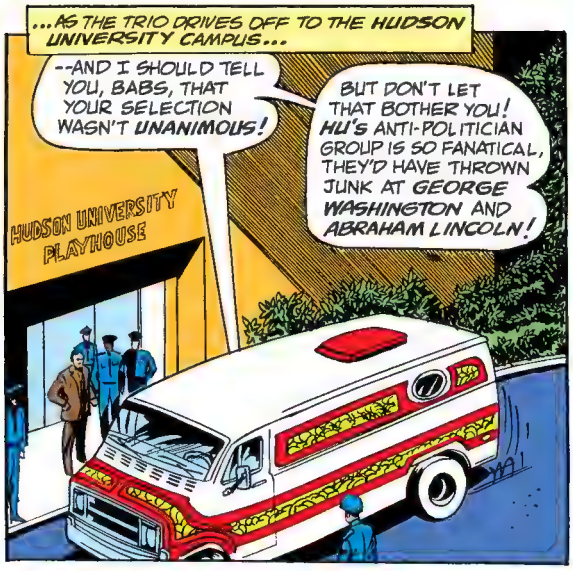
"BATGIRL AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE"...?
THEN THAT PHONE-CALL WAS A DECOY...
...TO LURE ME AWAY FROM-- BABS!
OF COURSE-- THAT TV-CREWMAN I BUMPED INTO! HIS VOICE...
...WAS THE VOICE ON THE PHONE!
BETWEEN US, JASON, WE DIDN'T HAVE A "DATE"! JUST WHO WERE YOU MEETING HERE?
CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, BATGIRL-- GOT A DEADLINE TO KEEP!
...LEAST IT WILL BE-- IF I DON'T--!
CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT DEADLINE JASON'S TALKING ABOUT... UNLESS IT'S MY TV-ACCEPTANCE SPEECH!
IN WHICH CASE, I'D BETTER BE BACK IN MY ROLE OF BABS--BEFORE HE GETS THERE!
BREATHLESS MINUTES LATER...FROM THE CAMPAIGN H.Q. TV-MONITOR SET UPSTAIRS...
WE NOW SWITCH YOU TO BARBARA GORDON'S CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS...
GOOD LORD--NO! THEY MUSTN'T SWITCH ON THOSE MIKES...!
SCRE
7

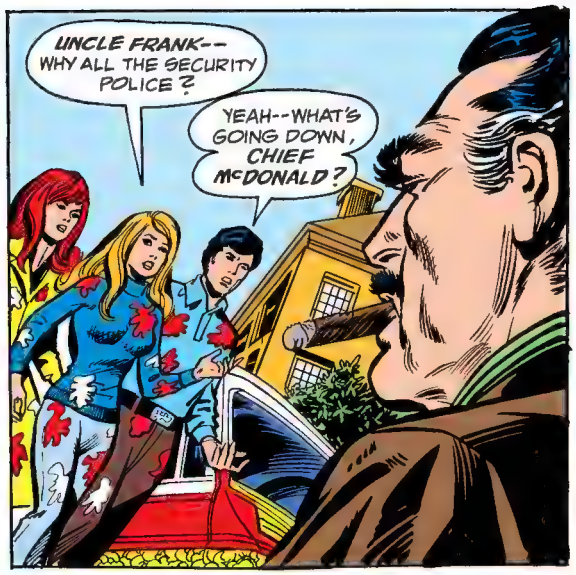
RACING AN UNSEEN ENEMY, JASON RUNS INTO THREE REAL ONES... LEAVING IN HASTE!
...THE WINNER, BABS "THE BOOT" GORDON! TAKE IT, MISS CONGRESSWOMAN!
NO--NO! DON'T TOUCH IT, BABS!
OUTA MY WAY!
JASON...?! WHAT'S...
DOWN, BABS-- DOWN!
PHEW! CUT POWER TO TV-GEAR -- IN THE NICK!
ZZZT!
THEN...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR VICTORY SPEECH, BABS-- BUT...
...JUST AS I FIGURED! THE MIKE'S PACKED WITH HIGH-INTENSITY EXPLOSIVES-- WIRED TO GO OFF WHEN SWITCHED ON!
DAYS LATER, THE UNDERWORLD "OPPOSITION" ROUNDED UP WITH JASON'S HELP... CONGRESS-WOMAN BABS GORDON DEPARTS FOR HER NEW LIFE IN WASHINGTON D.C!...
WE'RE GOING TO MISS HER, COMMISSIONER GORDON! GOTHAM CITY IS GOING TO MISS HER...
MORE THAN YOU KNOW, JASON! WE'RE ALSO LOSING BATGIRL!
AND AS GOTHAM CITY LOSES AN ACE CRIME-FIGHTER IN BATGIRL, IT GAINS ONE IN JASON BARD!
8

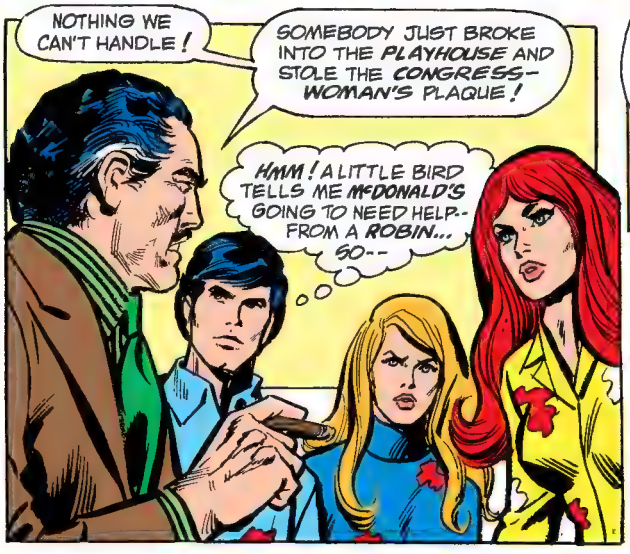
DC
BATMAN
FAMILY
GIANT
NO. 9
FEB.
31655
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CO-STARRING THE DYNAMITE DUO-- BATGIRL AND ROBIN!
AS IF THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER WEREN'T ENOUGH-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO MEET THE SCARECROW'S DAUGHTER, THE RIDDLER'S DAUGHTER, and THE PENGUIN'S DAUGHTER!
STAY OUT OF THIS, ROBIN-- THIS IS MY FIGHT!
ERNIE CHUA

FACT:
Robin the TEEN WONDER
AND
Batgirl
ARE OUTNUMBERED IN THIS BATTLE!
CONCLUSION: THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THE DYNAMITE DUO FIGHTING OFF THIS FEARSOME FOURSOME OF FEMALE FELONS!
PREDICTION: BETWEEN FACT AND CONCLUSION YOU WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE THE --
STARTLING SECRET OF THE DEVILISH DAUGHTERS!
STORY: BOB ROZAKIS
ART: IRV NOVICK and VINCE COLLETTA
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

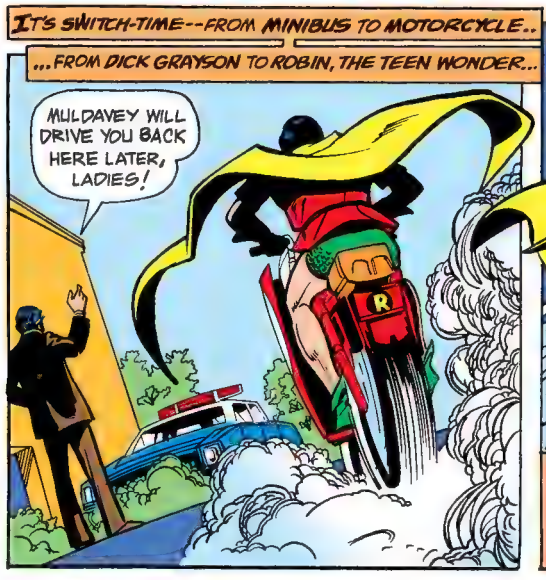

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS PLAQUE!
PRESENTED TO BARBARA GORDON CHOSEN BY THE STUDENTS OF HUDSON UNIVERSITY, BEST FRESHMAN CONGRESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR.
IT WILL BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE YOU SEE IT AGAIN--
--BECAUSE IT'S JUST BEEN STOLEN!
WE'LL TRACK DOWN THE THIEF LATER--
RIGHT NOW, LET'S SWITCH OVER TO NEW CARTHAGE AIRFIELD AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE PLAQUE'S WOULD-BE RECIPIENT...
GORDON GO HOME!
...CONGRESS-WOMAN BARBARA GORDON!
DICK GRAYSON! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HOW'S IT GOING--?
GREAT, BABS-- JUST GREAT!!
-Ahem- MS. GORDON-- I'M LORI ELTON... DICK'S GIRLFRIEND!!
OH...UH, CALL ME BABS, LORI! ANY FRIEND OF DICK'S IS A FR--
BUT IT APPEARS THAT NOT EVERY-ONE IS FRIENDLY!
Y-YIII!
SOME CRUD-- PELTING US WITH TOMATOES AND EGGS!
IN OTHER CIRCUM-STANCES, BABS AND DICK WOULD BE QUICK TO PUT DOWN THE DISTURBANCE AS BATGIRL AND ROBIN!
BUT IN THIS CROWDED AIRPORT, THE DISORDER IS BEST HANDLED BY THE LOCAL POLICE...

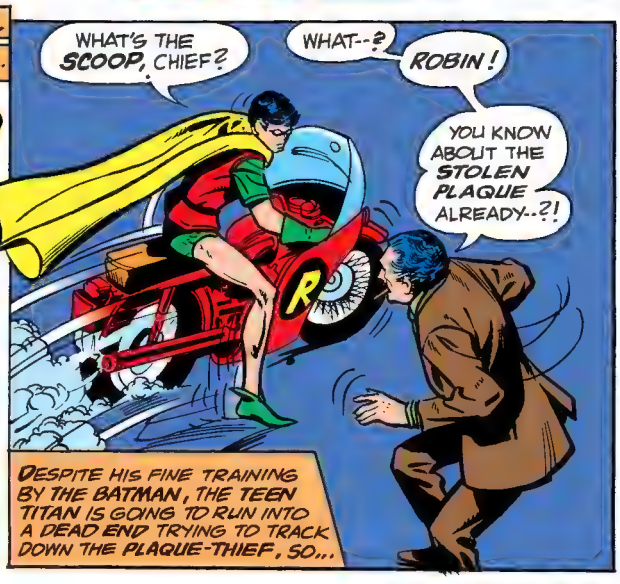

...AS THE TRIO DRIVES OFF TO THE HUDSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS...
--AND I SHOULD TELL YOU, BABS, THAT YOUR SELECTION WASN'T UNANIMOUS!
BUT DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU! HU'S ANTI-POLITICIAN GROUP IS SO FANATICAL, THEY'D HAVE THROWN JUNK AT GEORGE WASHINGTON AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN!
HUDSON UNIVERSITY PLAYHOUSE

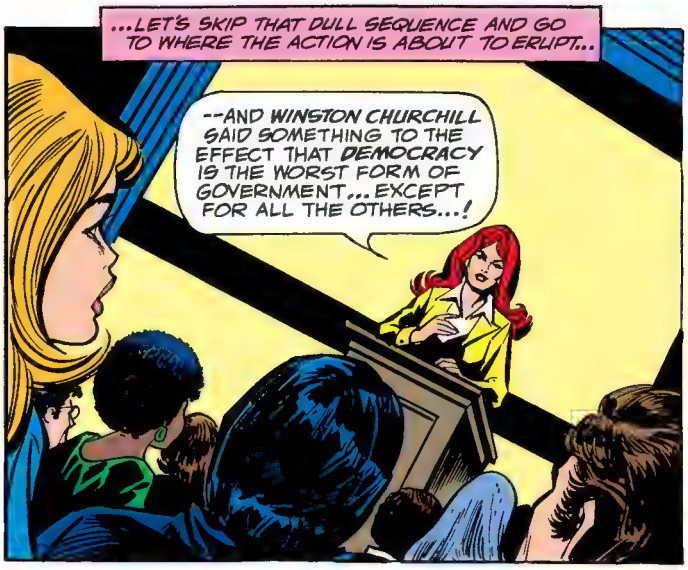

UNCLE FRANK-- WHY ALL THE SECURITY POLICE?
YEAH--WHAT'S GOING DOWN, CHIEF McDONALD?


NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE!
SOMEBODY JUST BROKE INTO THE PLAYHOUSE AND STOLE THE CONGRESS-WOMAN'S PLAQUE!
HMM! A LITTLE BIRD TELLS ME McDONALD'S GOING TO NEED HELP--FROM A ROBIN... SO--

LORI, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE BABS OVER TO YOUR HOUSE SO SHE CAN CHANGE CLOTHES BEFORE HER TALK WITH THE STUDENTS?
THIS ROTTEN EGG-SMELL IS DRIVING ME BANANAS! I'VE GOTTA CHANGE CLOTHES, TOO!
RICHARD--!
SEE YA LATER!

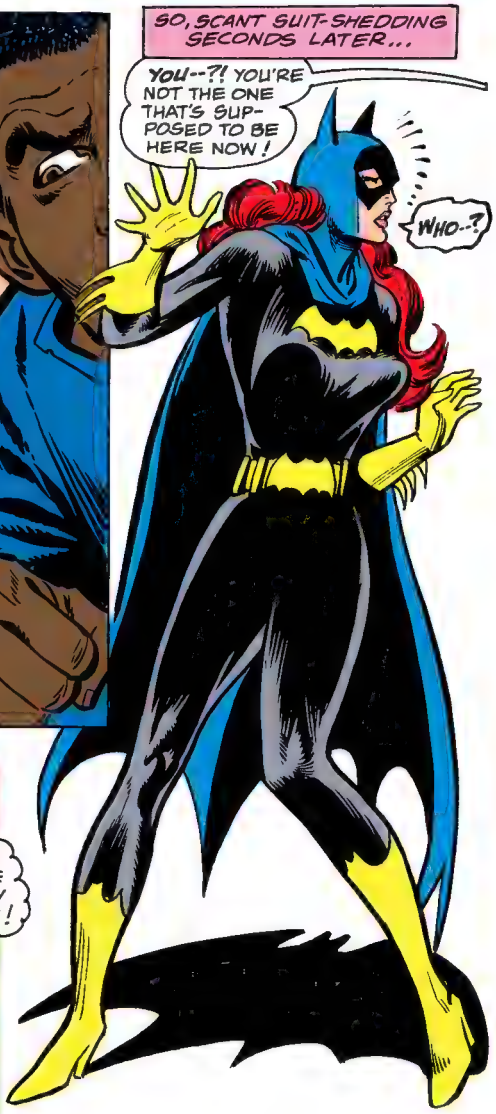

IT'S SWITCH-TIME--FROM MINIBUS TO MOTORCYCLE..
...FROM DICK GRAYSON TO ROBIN, THE TEEN WONDER...
MULDAVEY WILL DRIVE YOU BACK HERE LATER, LADIES!


WHAT'S THE SCOOP, CHIEF?
WHAT--?
ROBIN!
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STOLEN PLAQUE ALREADY--?!
DESPITE HIS FINE TRAINING BY THE BATMAN, THE TEEN TITAN IS GOING TO RUN INTO A DEAD END TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE PLAQUE-THIEF, SO...


...LET'S SKIP THAT DULL SEQUENCE AND GO TO WHERE THE ACTION IS ABOUT TO ERUPT...
--AND WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE WORST FORM OF GOVERNMENT... EXCEPT FOR ALL THE OTHERS...!

GASP!
WH-WHAT COULD BE CAUSING THAT?!?

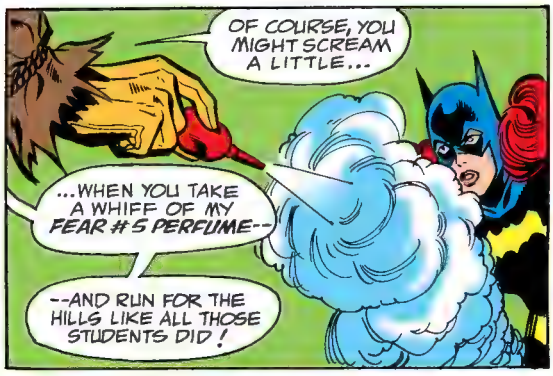
EVERYONE'S FLEEING IN PANIC -- LIKE A HERD OF FRIGHTENED DEER THAT'S JUST CAUGHT THE SCENT OF A MOUNTAIN LION!

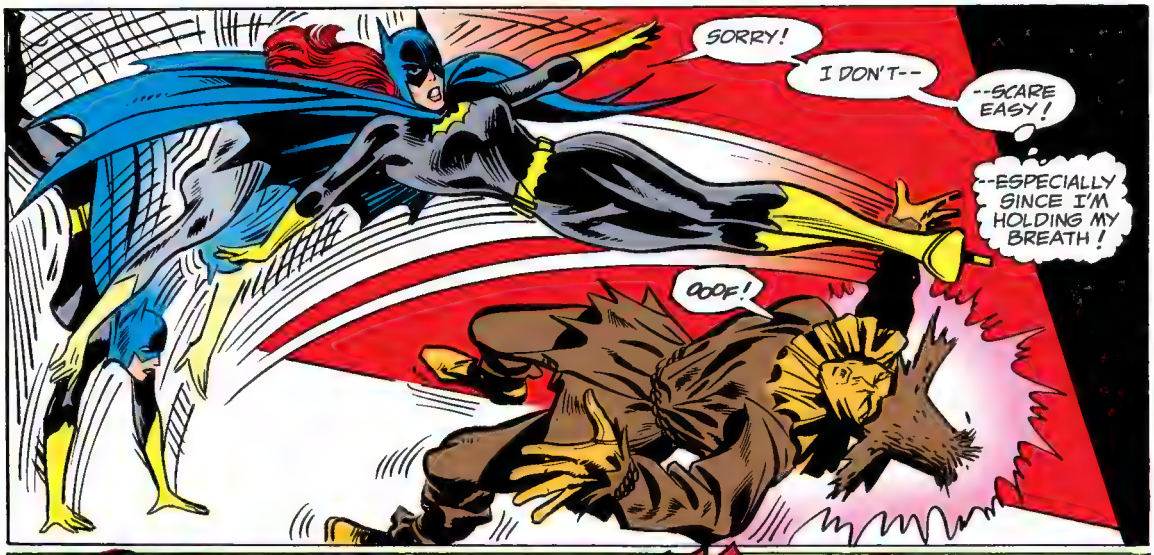

SO, SCANT SUIT-SHEDDING SECONDS LATER...
YOU--?! YOU'RE NOT THE ONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE NOW!
WHO--?

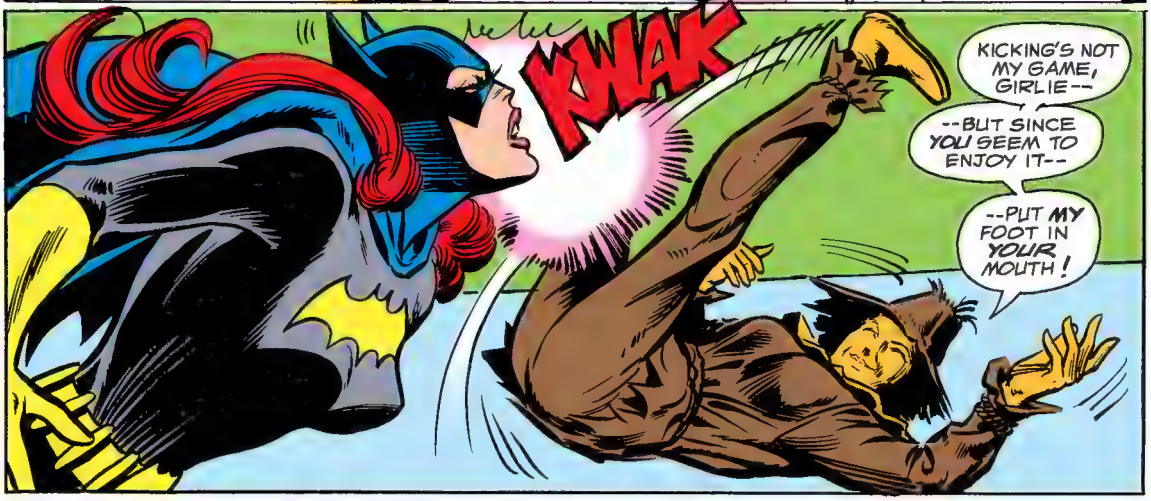
DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT!
BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH BATGIRL CAN HANDLE IT BETTER THAN BARBARA GORDON--
--AND WITH THE HALL DESERTED...
...I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE TO GET AWAY AND CHANGE!

--WHO? SCARECRONE-- THE SCARE-CROW'S DAUGHTER!
EVERYBODY BOLTED OUT OF HERE WHEN I FLASHED A PIN-UP OF MY POP ON THAT SCREEN!
SCARECROW'S... DAUGHTER..?!?

YOU SAID IT, BATGIRL-- AND THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GOING TO SAY!

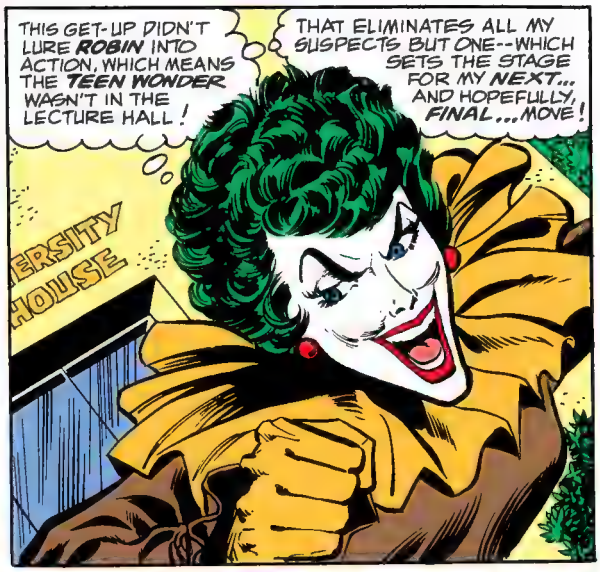

OF COURSE, YOU MIGHT SCREAM A LITTLE...
...WHEN YOU TAKE A WHIFF OF MY FEAR #5 PERFUME--
--AND RUN FOR THE HILLS LIKE ALL THOSE STUDENTS DID!


SORRY!
I DON'T--
--SCARE EASY!
--ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M HOLDING MY BREATH!
OOOF!


KWAK
KICKING'S NOT MY GAME, GIRLIE--
--BUT SINCE YOU SEEM TO ENJOY IT--
--PUT MY FOOT IN YOUR MOUTH!

LIKE TWO PANTHERS LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT, THE MISTRESS OF FEAR AND THE DOMINOED DAREDOLL FIGHT IT OUT--

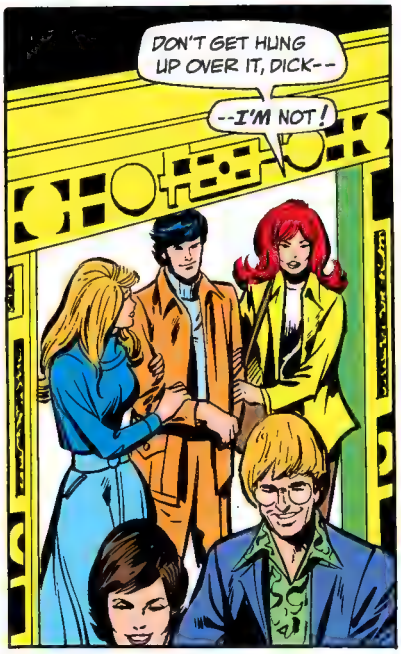
SHOCKED BY THIS ELECTRIFYING TURN OF EVENTS, BATGIRL STANDS PARALYZED AS HER FOE RUNS OFF...
SCARECROW'S DAUGHTER--?!? JOKER'S DAUGHTER--!?!
HAHAHAHAHA! IF YOU CAN'T SCARE 'EM-- STUN 'EM!

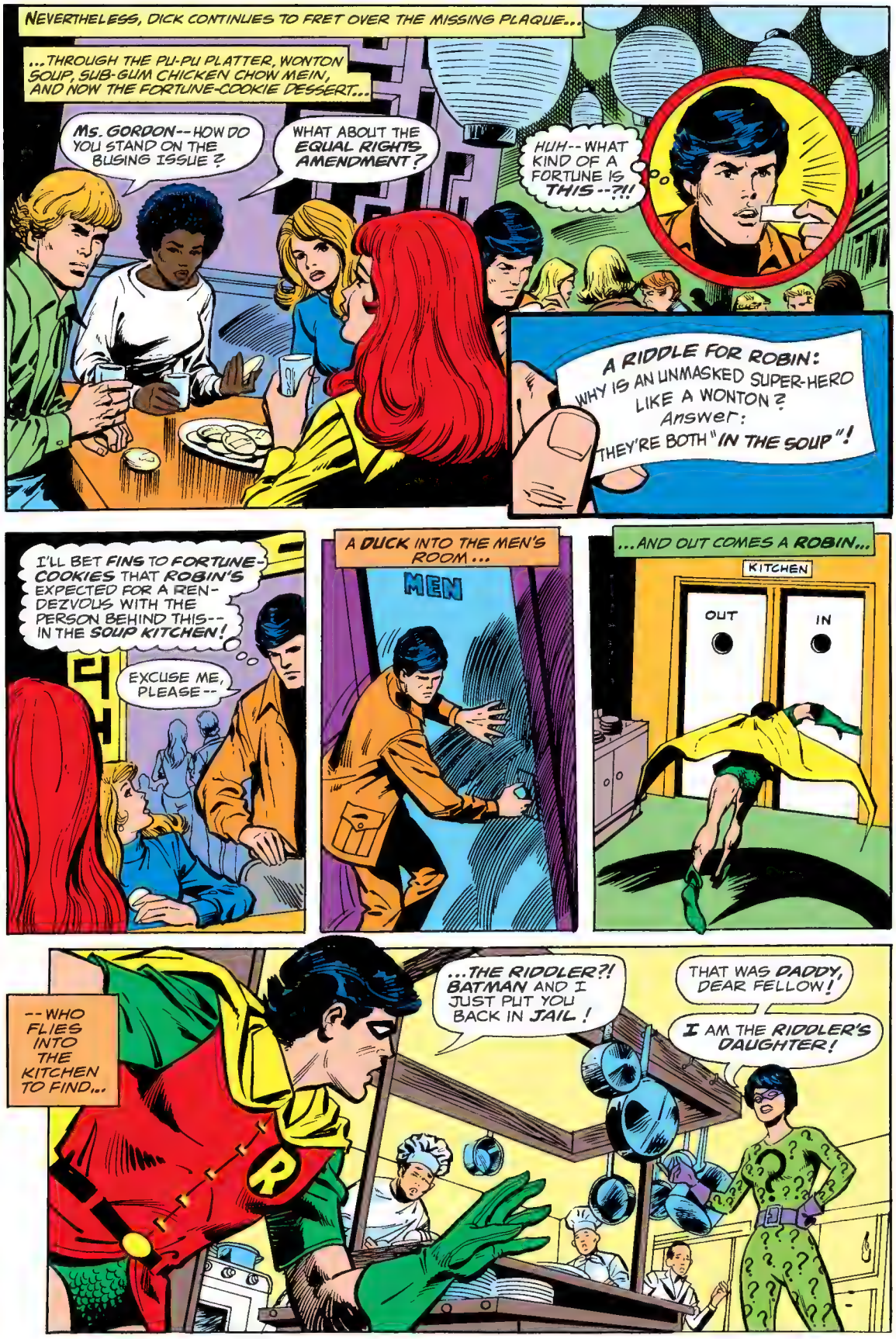

THIS GET-UP DIDN'T LURE ROBIN INTO ACTION, WHICH MEANS THE TEEN WONDER WASN'T IN THE LECTURE HALL!
THAT ELIMINATES ALL MY SUSPECTS BUT ONE--WHICH SETS THE STAGE FOR MY NEXT... AND HOPEFULLY, FINAL...MOVE!

IS IT POSSIBLE? HAS OUR MYSTERIOUS MISS UNCOVERED ROBIN'S SECRET IDENTITY? LET'S CHECK IN ON DICK GRAYSON, SOMETIME LATER...
--AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS RUNNING OUT OF THE LECTURE HALL WITH EVERYBODY ELSE! GOLLY, WAS I SCARED!
NO WONDER, LORI! IT WAS THE SCARECROW'S DAUGHTER, PULLING OFF HER FATHER'S FEAR-TRICKS!
ERNIE'S ORIENTAL PAL
SPECIAL LUNCHEON TODAY FOR CONGRESSWOMAN GORDON

--BUT AS BABS TOLD ME, SHE WAS REALLY THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER IN ANOTHER WHACKO DISGUISE!
I WONDER--DID SHE STEAL THE PLAQUE?

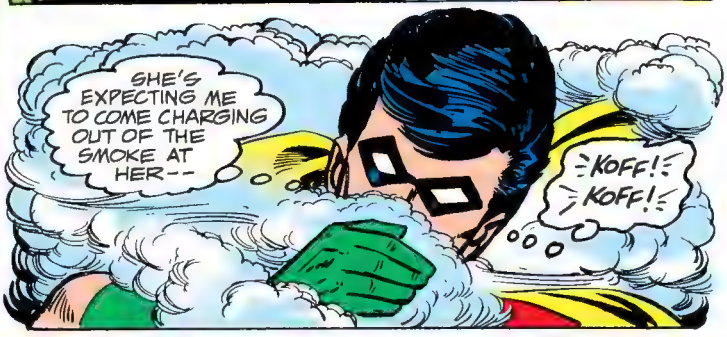
WHY SO GLUM, SWEETHEART? YOU'RE HAVING LUNCH WITH TWO--COUNT 'EM, TWO--LOVELY LADIES TODAY!
SO PUT ON A HAPPY FACE!
HOW CAN I-- WHEN BABS IS HERE TO COLLECT AN AWARD THAT'S BEEN STOLEN!


DON'T GET HUNG UP OVER IT, DICK--
--I'M NOT!


NEVERTHELESS, DICK CONTINUES TO FRET OVER THE MISSING PLAQUE...
...THROUGH THE PU-PU PLATTER, WONTON SOUP, SUB-GUM CHICKEN CHOW MEIN, AND NOW THE FORTUNE-COOKIE DESSERT...
MS. GORDON--HOW DO YOU STAND ON THE BUSING ISSUE?
WHAT ABOUT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT?
HUH--WHAT KIND OF A FORTUNE IS THIS--?!!
A RIDDLE FOR ROBIN: WHY IS AN UNMASKED SUPER-HERO LIKE A WONTON? Answer: THEY'RE BOTH "IN THE SOUP"!
I'LL BET FINS TO FORTUNE-COOKIES THAT ROBIN'S EXPECTED FOR A REN-DEZVOUS WITH THE PERSON BEHIND THIS--IN THE SOUP KITCHEN!
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE--
A DUCK INTO THE MEN'S ROOM...
MEN
...AND OUT COMES A ROBIN...
KITCHEN
OUT
IN
--WHO FLIES INTO THE KITCHEN TO FIND...
...THE RIDDLER?! BATMAN AND I JUST PUT YOU BACK IN JAIL!
THAT WAS DADDY, DEAR FELLOW!
I AM THE RIDDLER'S DAUGHTER!

AWW. C'MON!
YEAH? WELL, RIDDLE ME THIS, ROBIN!
YOU'RE NO MORE THE RIDDLER'S DAUGHTER THAN I'M HAWKMAN'S SON!
WHY ARE YOU LIKE A CIGARETTE BUTT?

BECAUSE YOU'RE BOTH SMOKED OUT!
HA HA HA HA HA!


SHE'S EXPECTING ME TO COME CHARGING OUT OF THE SMOKE AT HER--
KOFF! KOFF!

--SO INSTEAD, I'LL BACK OUT...RIGHT THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR!

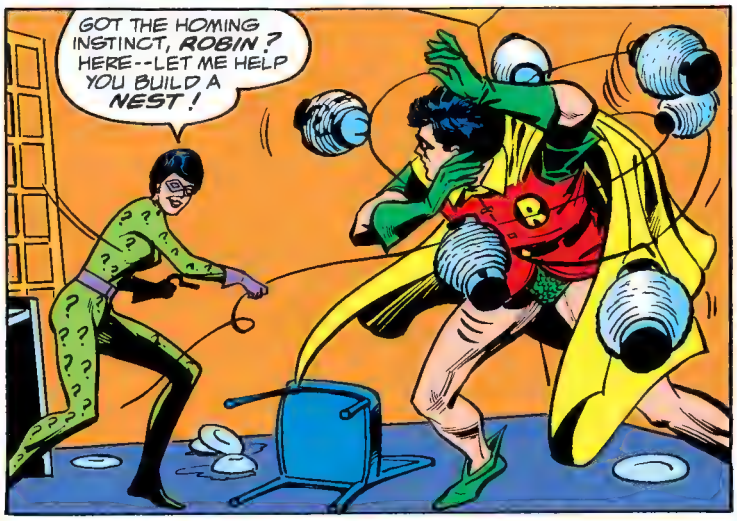
NICE TRY, BIRD-BRAIN-- BUT YOU'VE BEEN OUTWITTED!

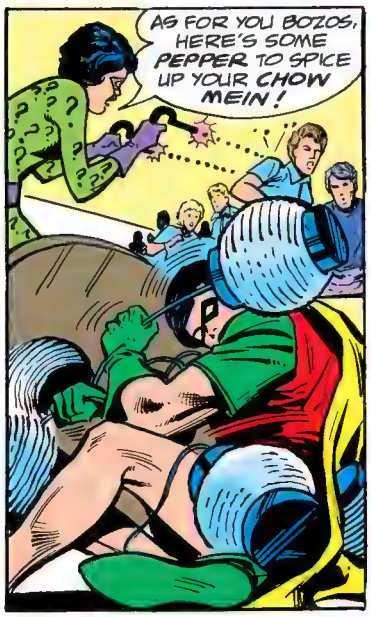
TRY A TASTE OF MY RIDDLER REVOLVERS!
IF YOU'LL PARDON THE PUN...
LING!
LIP!
...THEY'RE REAL PERIOD PIECES!

OUT
I'M TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES WITH THIS WHACKY BROAD!

ROBIN--!
HEY-- THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!

SO THAT'S WHY DICK LEFT--
--WHICH MAKES THIS HIS SHOW!


GOT THE HOMING INSTINCT, ROBIN? HERE--LET ME HELP YOU BUILD A NEST!


AS FOR YOU BOZOS, HERE'S SOME PEPPER TO SPICE UP YOUR CHOW MEIN!

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE THEY WRECK THE PLACE--
--AND US, TOO!
NOW THEY GET THE POINT--OR RATHER POINTS--
--AND ARE CUTTING OUT!

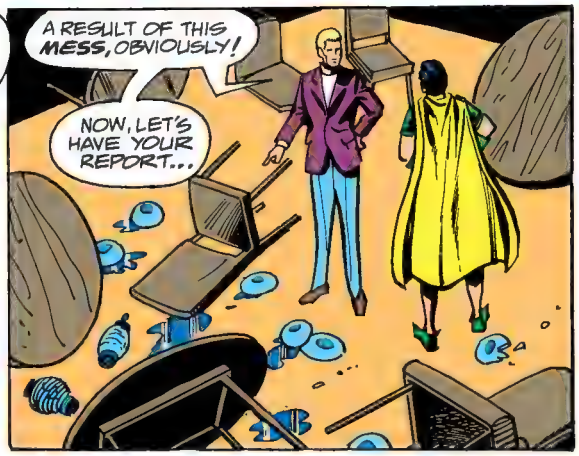
WELL--! LOOK WHO FLEW OUT OF HIS NEST!
TELL ME, ROBIN--WHY DID THE LITTLE BIRD CHIRP AT THE--
KNOCK IT OFF--I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE RIDDLER'S DAUGHTER--
--AND THIS IS HOW I PROVE IT!
OUCH
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, ROBIN--
--UNMASKING ME AS THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER HAS EXPLOSIVE CONSEQUENCES!
KABOOM!
SOMEWHAT LATER... AS THE TEEN TITAN STRUGGLES TO REGAIN HIS EQUILIBRIUM, HE IS JOINED BY LT. RICK TATEM AND SOME OF NEW CARTHAGE'S FINEST...
GROAN
SUB-GUM AND SUPER-HEROING DON'T MIX! I'M GONNA BE... SICK!
ROBIN--!
WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON HERE?
IN A MINUTE, LIEUTENANT BLURP IN A MINUTE!
MEN
AND WHEN THE QUEASY CRIME-FIGHTER LOOKS IN THE MIRROR--
GASP! MY MASK--IT'S GONE!
SHE GOT IT! SHE KNOWS WHO I AM!

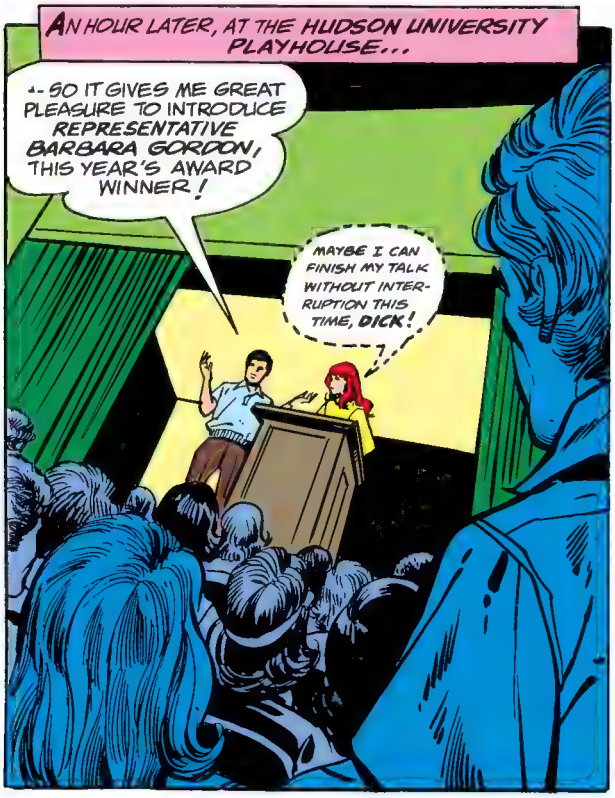
LT. TATEM'S WAITING OUTSIDE THE DOOR--!
TOWELS

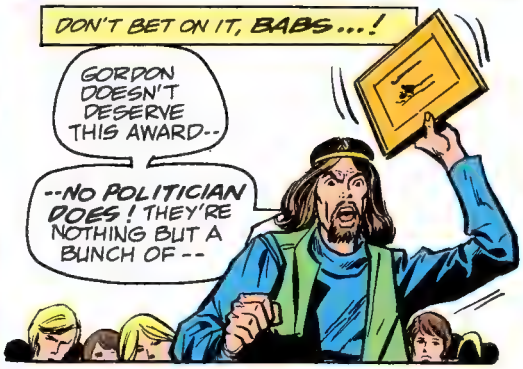
LOSING MY SECRET I.D. ONCE TODAY IS ONCE TOO MUCH!

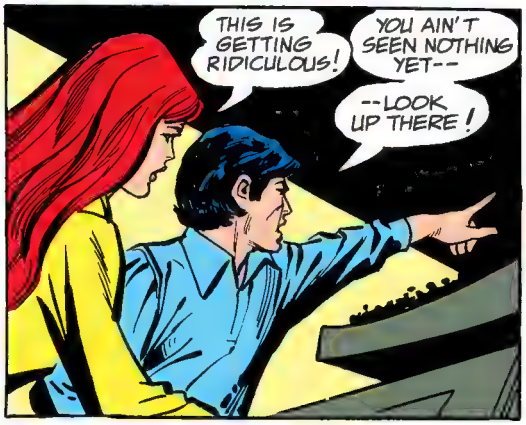
THIS MAKESHIFT MASK WILL HAVE TO DO TILL I GET A REPLACEMENT FROM MY ROOM!

WHAT'S THIS? A NEW FASHION IN MASKS?
IT'S...UH... BETTER THAN MY REGULAR ONE--WHICH GOT SOAKED IN SOY SAUCE!
MEN
R


A RESULT OF THIS MESS, OBVIOUSLY!
NOW, LET'S HAVE YOUR REPORT...


AN HOUR LATER, AT THE HUDSON UNIVERSITY PLAYHOUSE...
--SO IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA GORDON, THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNER!
MAYBE I CAN FINISH MY TALK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION THIS TIME, DICK!


DON'T BET ON IT, BABS...!
GORDON DOESN'T DESERVE THIS AWARD--
--NO POLITICIAN DOES! THEY'RE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF--


THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS!
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET--
--LOOK UP THERE!

HEY... IT'S THE PENGUIN...
...IN DRAG!
ANOTHER LOONY LADY IN A COSTUME!
BETCHA IT'S HIS DAUGHTER!
WHICH IS THE CUE FOR HUDSON'S "ORIGINAL" COSTUMED CHARACTER TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE, ALONG WITH HIS SPECIAL GUEST-PARTNER--
--AS DICK GRAYSON AND BARBARA GORDON EXIT STAGE RIGHT...
...AND ROBIN AND BATGIRL ENTER STAGE LEFT...
THE DYNAMITE DUO WOKK WOKK
I GET FIRST CRACK AT THAT PHONEY--!
YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT ME TO IT, BAT-GIRL!
I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HER!
HERE ARE SOME POINTED FEATHERS FOR THE BIRD-BOY...
OWW!
...AND PARASOLS FOR M' LADY!
YEEOUCH! THOSE PARASOLS ARE REALLY TINY DARTS!
IT'S TIME TO UPSTAGE THIS BIRD--
--AND COME DOWN HARD ON HER!
GET YOUR BIG FEET OFF ME, YOU WITCH!

I'LL PUMMEL YOU WITH MY BUMBERSHOOT! WOKK

THAT'S ALL, CUTIE! THE SHOW'S OVER!

NOT QUITE!
BATGIRL! IF WE'RE GOING TO LICK THIS CHICK, WE'D BETTER GET OUR ACT TOGETHER!

RIGHT, ROBIN-- LET'S GO!
A-ONE AND A-TWO AND A--

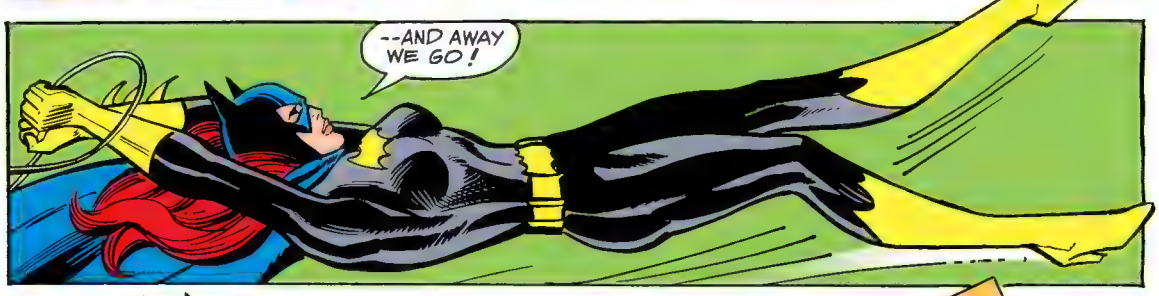
--THREE!

STRIPPED OF HER UMBRELLAS, THE PENGUIN'S DAUGHTER FACES A TWO-ON-ONE SITUATION...
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO SOCK IT TO HER--
--LADIES FIRST!

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE A GENTLEMAN--
--BUT IN THESE DAYS OF EQUALITY, I MUST REFUSE!
BESIDES, I SEE SOMETHING ELSE MORE IMPORTANT TO HANDLE!

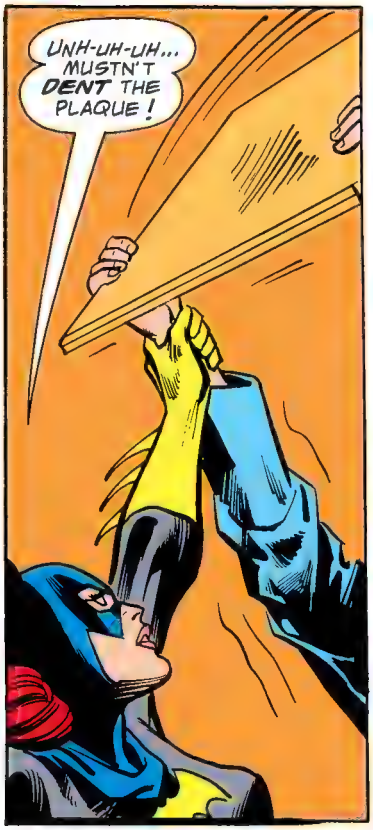
TAKE HER, ROBIN--SHE'S ALL YOURS!

ONE BATARANG WITH BAT-ROPE FOR INSTANT TRANSPORTATION--


--AND AWAY WE GO!

MIND IF I TAKE THIS SEAT--
--AND THAT PLAQUE?

HERE--TAKE IT, RED--
--RIGHT ON YOUR HEAD!


UNH-UH-UH... MUSTN'T DENT THE PLAQUE!

ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU DESERVE A DENT OR TWO--
--FOR STAINING MY CLOTHES WITH EGGS AND TOMATOES!

MEANWHILE, BACKSTAGE...
I HAVE NO CUFFS HANDY, SO THIS ARMLOCK WILL HOLD YOU--
--WHILE I UNMASK YOU FOR THE LAST TIME!

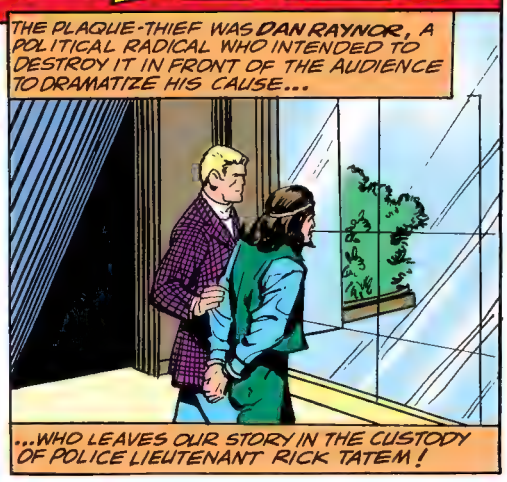
BIG DEAL! SO YOU'VE FIGURED OUT I'M THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER IN ANOTHER OF MY DISGUISES!
THAT MAKES US EVEN! I'VE FOUND OUT WHO YOU ARE--
--RICHARD GRAYSON!

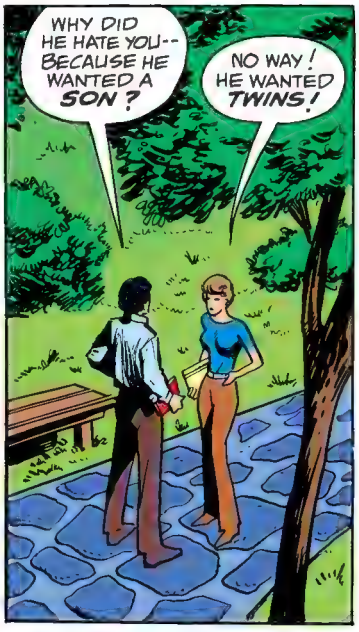
OKAY-- NOW LET ME TOP THAT!
UNDERNEATH THAT AWFUL MAKE-UP IS A GIRL NAMED--

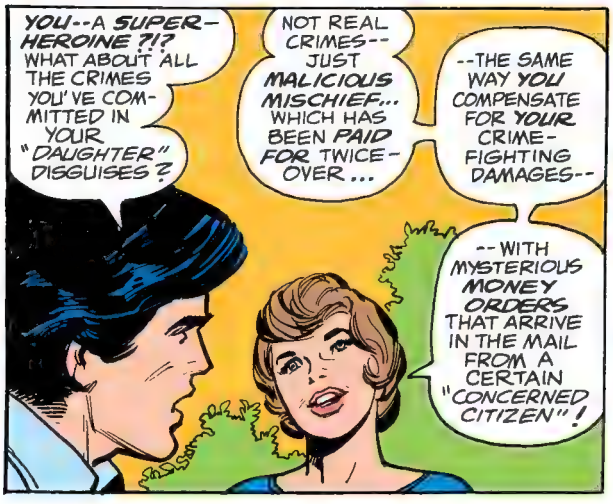
--DUELA DENT--
--DAUGHTER OF TWO-FACE!

EPILOGUE

...WHO, INCIDENTALLY, FINALLY GETS TO COMPLETE HER TALK!







THE DAUGHTER OF GOTHAM'S POLICE COMMISSIONER, BARBARA GORDON FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE ON TWO FRONTS... IN HER JOB AT HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND IN HER SECRET IDENTITY AS THE DARKNIGHT DAMSEL...

WARD GILBERT WAS QUITE CONTENT WITH HIS LIFE AS IT WAS: HALF OWNERSHIP OF GILCOM HAD LEFT HIM COMFORTABLY RICH AND FREE TO PURSUE HIS HOBBY--COMPUTERS. HE'D LIVED A SAFE, COMFORTABLE LIFE UNTIL HE'D DISCOVERED THOSE MISERABLE FILES. NOW HIS LIFE CAN NEVER BE COMFORTABLE AGAIN.

BECAUSE THE VELVET TIGER KNOWS HE'S DISCOVERED HER SECRET...

AND SHE'S GOING TO KILL HIM.

HE WITH SECRETS FEARS THE SOUND

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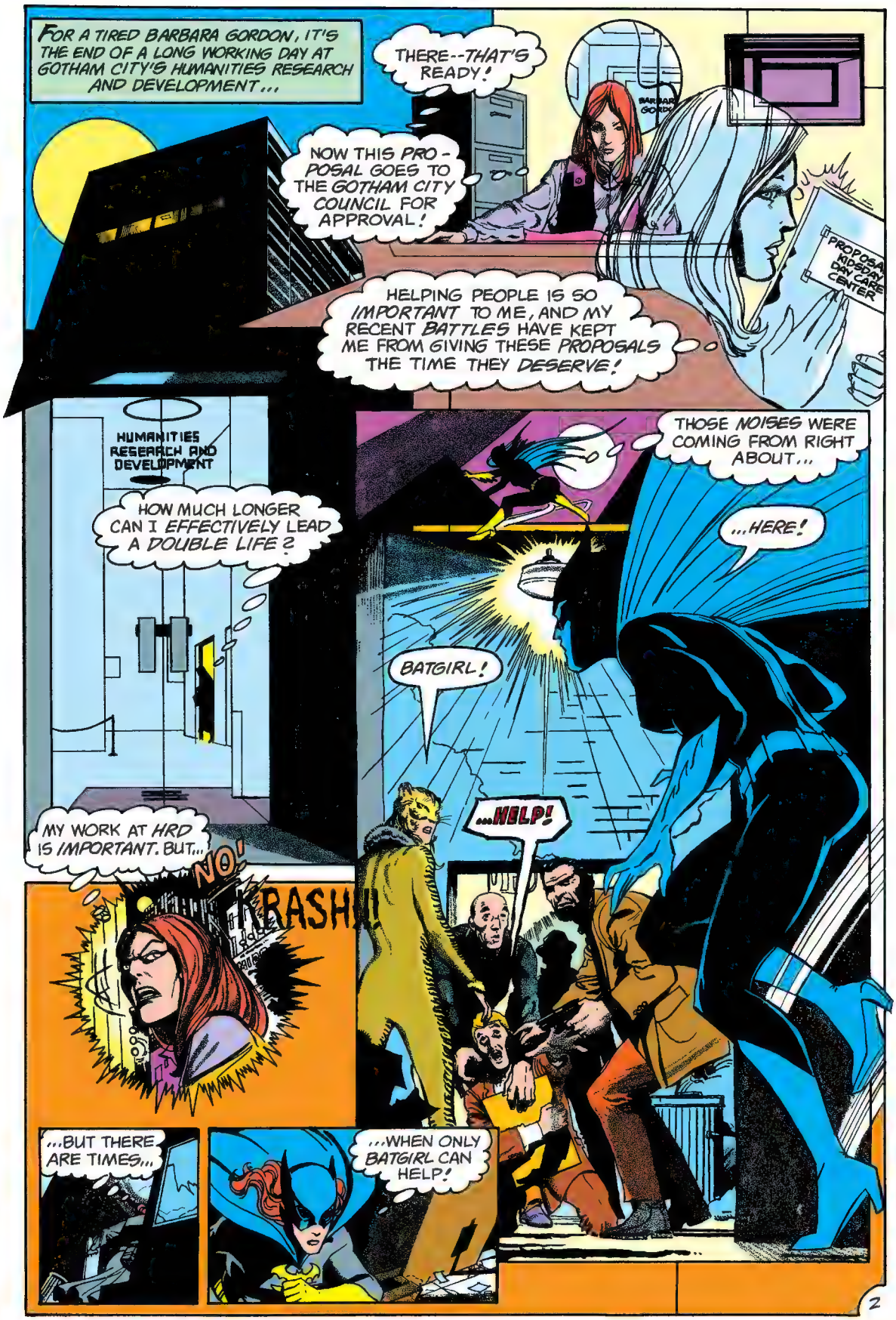
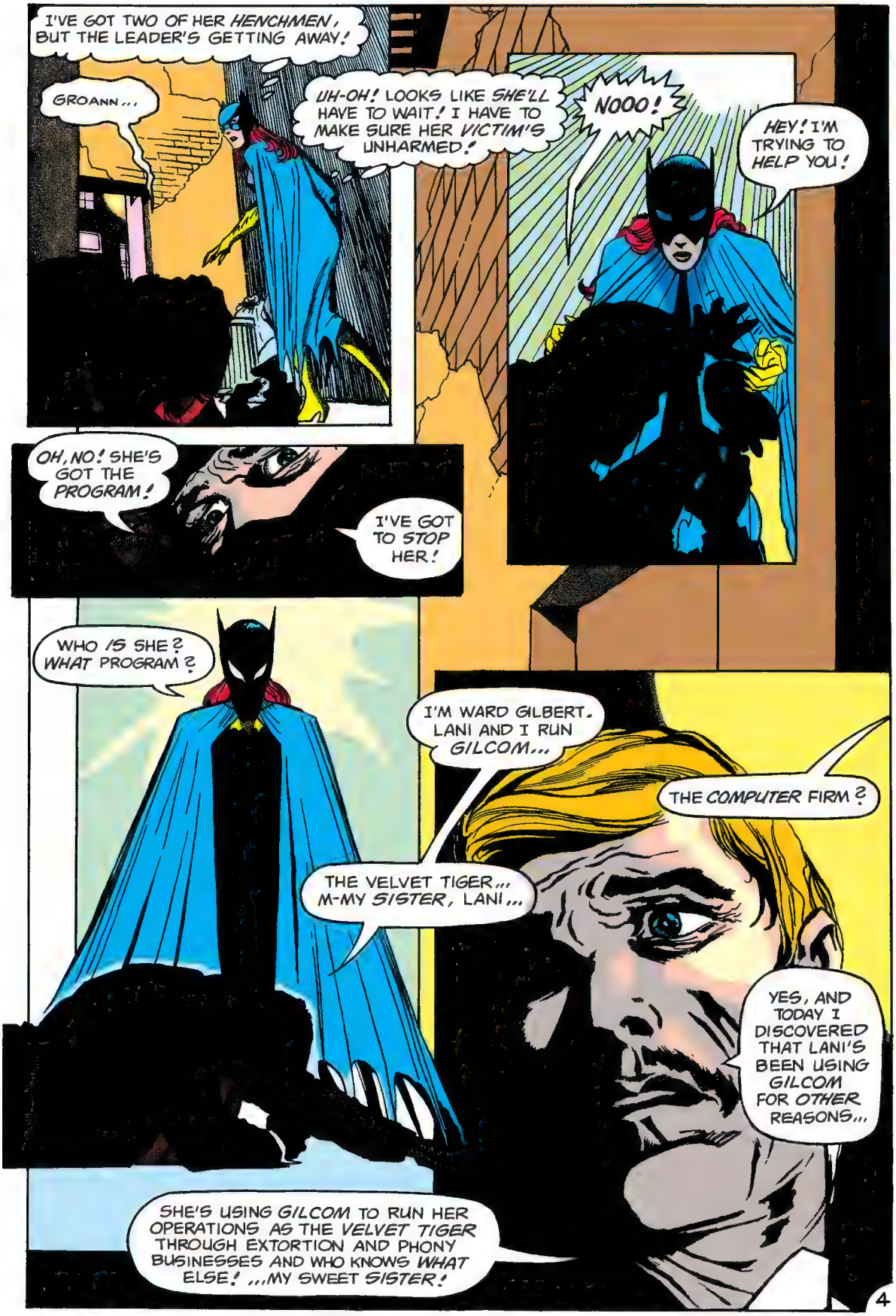
BARBARA J. RANDALL: WRITER * TREVOR VON EEDEN: ARTIST

MILT SNAPINN: LETTERER * JERRY SERPE: COLORIST

DICK GIORDANO: EDITOR

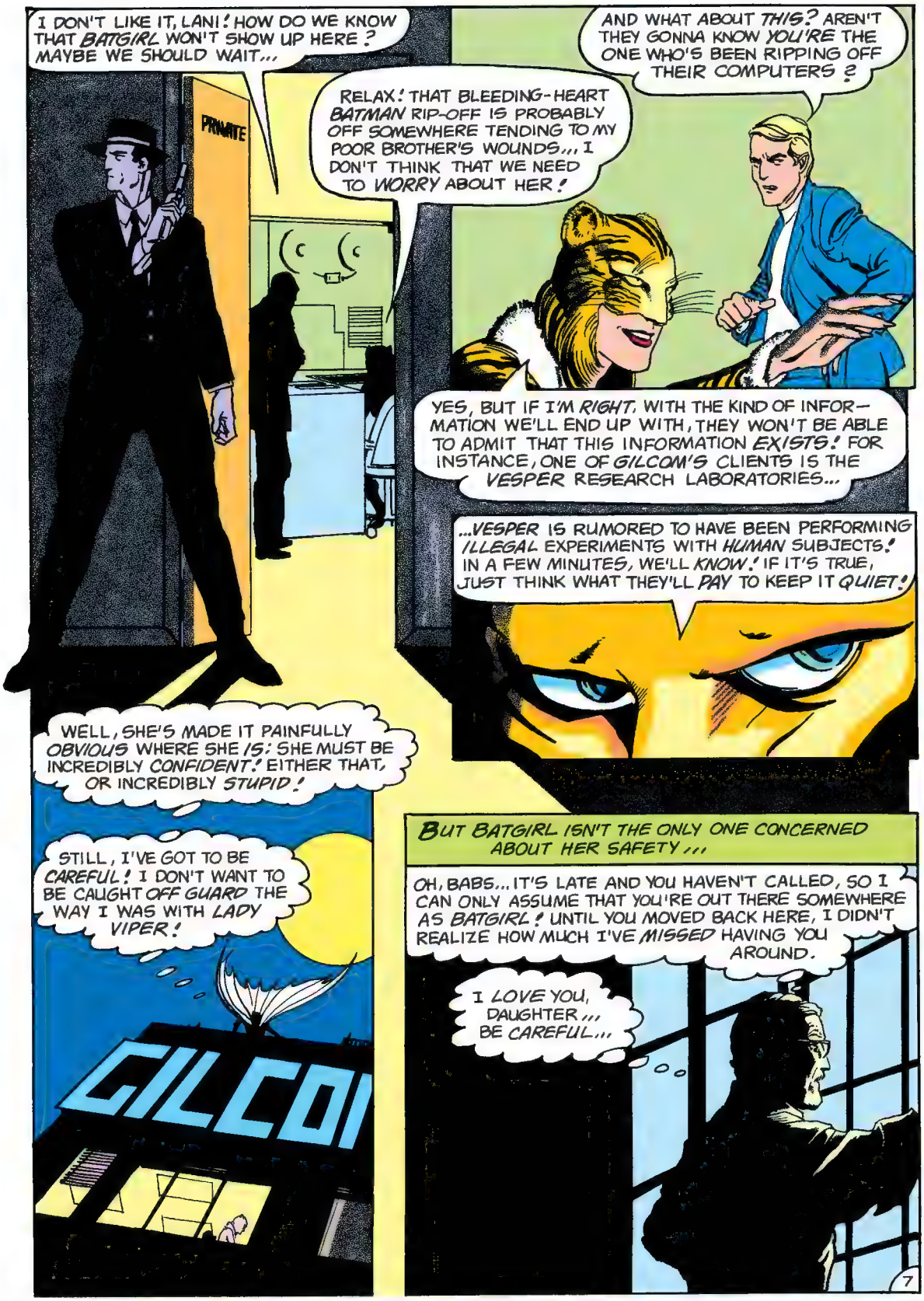

FOR A TIRED BARBARA GORDON, IT'S THE END OF A LONG WORKING DAY AT GOTHAM CITY'S HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT...
THERE--THAT'S READY!
NOW THIS PROPOSAL GOES TO THE GOTHAM CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL!
HELPING PEOPLE IS SO IMPORTANT TO ME, AND MY RECENT BATTLES HAVE KEPT ME FROM GIVING THESE PROPOSALS THE TIME THEY DESERVE!
PROPOSAL KIDS-DAY DAY CARE CENTER
HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I EFFECTIVELY LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE?
MY WORK AT HRD IS IMPORTANT. BUT...
NO!
KRASH!!
THOSE NOISES WERE COMING FROM RIGHT ABOUT...
...HERE!
BATGIRL!
...HELP!
...BUT THERE ARE TIMES...
...WHEN ONLY BATGIRL CAN HELP!
2

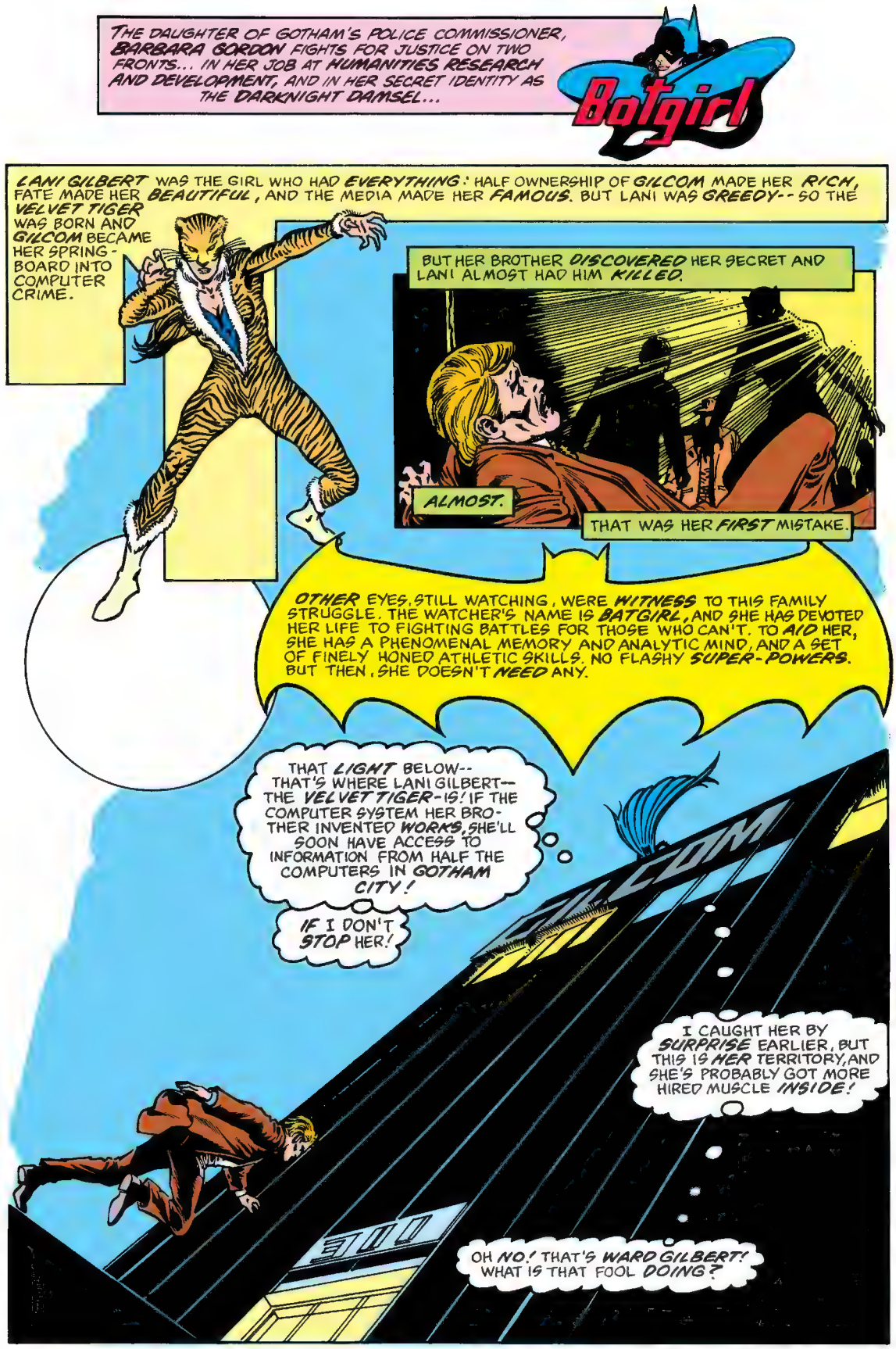
QUICKLY SIZING UP THE SITUATION, BATGIRL REACTS!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
THWACK!!
UUGGNN!
I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY KILL THAT POOR MAN!
ZING!
GIMME THAT!
PLEASE, NO... ...UNNHH...
OWWW!
THAT DISARMS TWO!
HEY, TIGER! CATCH!
GOOD. NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ABOUT BATGIR... UH... NEVER MIND...
IS IT SAFE TO LEAVE GILBERT?
DON'T WORRY! HE WON'T SAY A WORD!
3

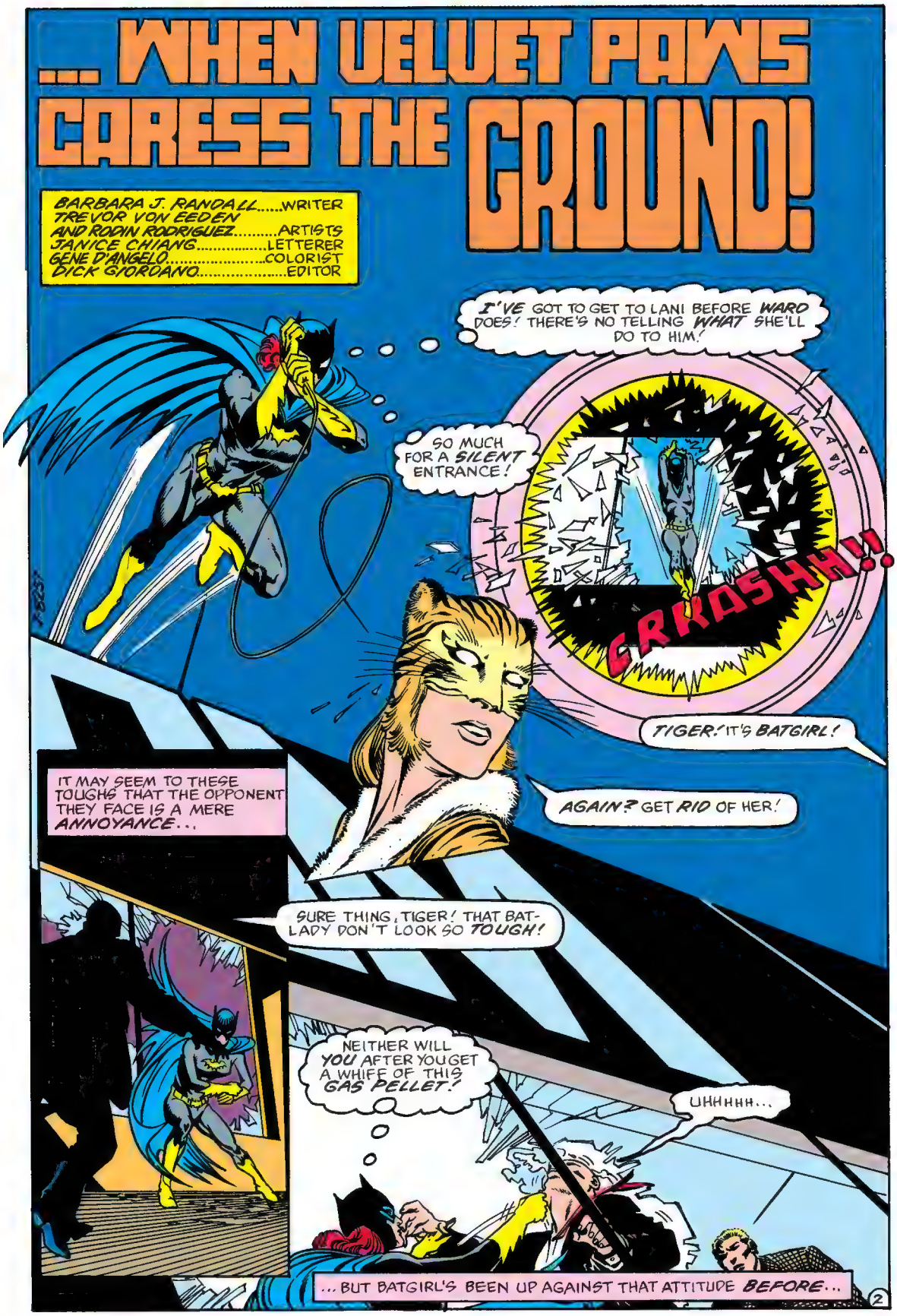

I'VE GOT TWO OF HER HENCHMEN, BUT THE LEADER'S GETTING AWAY!
GROANN...
UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE SHE'LL HAVE TO WAIT! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE HER VICTIM'S UNHARMED!
NOOO!
HEY! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!
OH, NO! SHE'S GOT THE PROGRAM!
I'VE GOT TO STOP HER!
WHO IS SHE? WHAT PROGRAM?
I'M WARD GILBERT. LANI AND I RUN GILCOM...
THE COMPUTER FIRM?
THE VELVET TIGER... M-MY SISTER, LANI...
YES, AND TODAY I DISCOVERED THAT LANI'S BEEN USING GILCOM FOR OTHER REASONS...
SHE'S USING GILCOM TO RUN HER OPERATIONS AS THE VELVET TIGER THROUGH EXTORTION AND PHONY BUSINESSES AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE! ...MY SWEET SISTER!
4

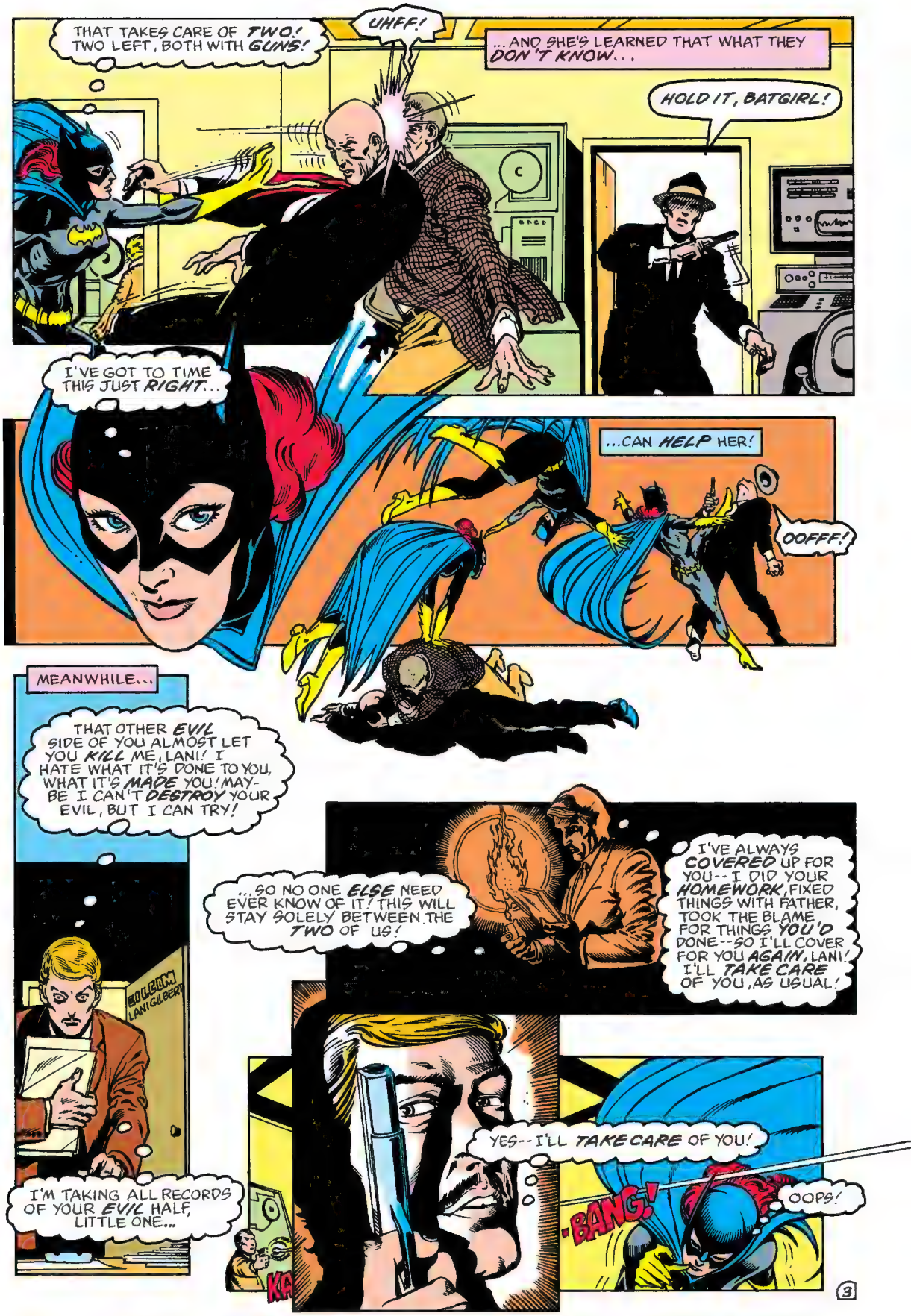
AND NOW SHE HAS A COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF SIPHONING INFORMATION FROM THE DATA BANKS OF ANY COMPUTER WITH GILCOM COMPONENTS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
DRINK
;CHOKE; I INVENTED THE SYSTEM!
YOU WHAT?
LANI SUGGESTED IT. I WAS INTRIGUED BY THE POSSIBILITY...
I NEVER DREAMED THAT LANI WAS THE VELVET TIGER! WHEN I FOUND OUT I'D BEEN DUPED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! AND NOW THAT SHE'S GOT MY PROGRAM...
FOR A SYSTEM THAT CAN TAP INTO ANY COMPUTER?... THAT SOUNDS PRETTY UNBELIEVABLE! HOW DOES IT WORK?
I BUILT AN ELECTRONIC KEY INTO ALL GILCOM COMPONENTS, WHICH ALLOWS THAT SYSTEM TO BE TAPPED BY A CODED SIGNAL FROM AN INFINITY TRANSMITTER IN GILCOM'S MAIN COMPUTER.
IT'S READY! THE OPERATING PROGRAM JUST NEEDS TO BE ENTERED AND RUN! AND THE ONLY COPY OF THE PRINTOUT IS IN MY BRIEFCASE! LANI HAS IT NOW!
I MUST STOP HER!
5

NO! YOU'RE GOING TO THE POLICE, AND TO GET THAT CUT TAKEN CARE OF! I'LL TAKE CARE OF LANI!
BATGIRL?...
LANI'S NOT A BAD PERSON. SHE'S JUST BEEN FOOLED BY THOSE OTHER, EVIL ONES INTO MAKING A FEW MISTAKES...
LIKE ATTEMPTED MURDER?
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND...
YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND HER IN THE MAIN TERMINAL ROOM--IT'S ON THE FOURTH FLOOR!
NO, LANI, YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON...
...BUT YOU'VE GONE BAD!
AND YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A FOOL OF ME AGAIN, LITTLE ONE!
...NEVER!
6


I DON'T LIKE IT, LANI! HOW DO WE KNOW THAT BATGIRL WON'T SHOW UP HERE? MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT...
PRIVATE
RELAX! THAT BLEEDING-HEART BATMAN RIP-OFF IS PROBABLY OFF SOMEWHERE TENDING TO MY POOR BROTHER'S WOUNDS... I DON'T THINK THAT WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HER!
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS? AREN'T THEY GONNA KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN RIPPING OFF THEIR COMPUTERS?
YES, BUT IF I'M RIGHT, WITH THE KIND OF INFORMATION WE'LL END UP WITH, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ADMIT THAT THIS INFORMATION EXISTS! FOR INSTANCE, ONE OF GILCOM'S CLIENTS IS THE VESPER RESEARCH LABORATORIES...
...VESPER IS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN PERFORMING ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTS WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS! IN A FEW MINUTES, WE'LL KNOW! IF IT'S TRUE, JUST THINK WHAT THEY'LL PAY TO KEEP IT QUIET!
WELL, SHE'S MADE IT PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WHERE SHE IS: SHE MUST BE INCREDIBLY CONFIDENT! EITHER THAT, OR INCREDIBLY STUPID!
STILL, I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL! I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD THE WAY I WAS WITH LADY VIPER!
GILCO
BUT BATGIRL ISN'T THE ONLY ONE CONCERNED ABOUT HER SAFETY...
OH, BABS... IT'S LATE AND YOU HAVEN'T CALLED, SO I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT YOU'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE AS BATGIRL! UNTIL YOU MOVED BACK HERE, I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED HAVING YOU AROUND.
I LOVE YOU, DAUGHTER... BE CAREFUL...
7

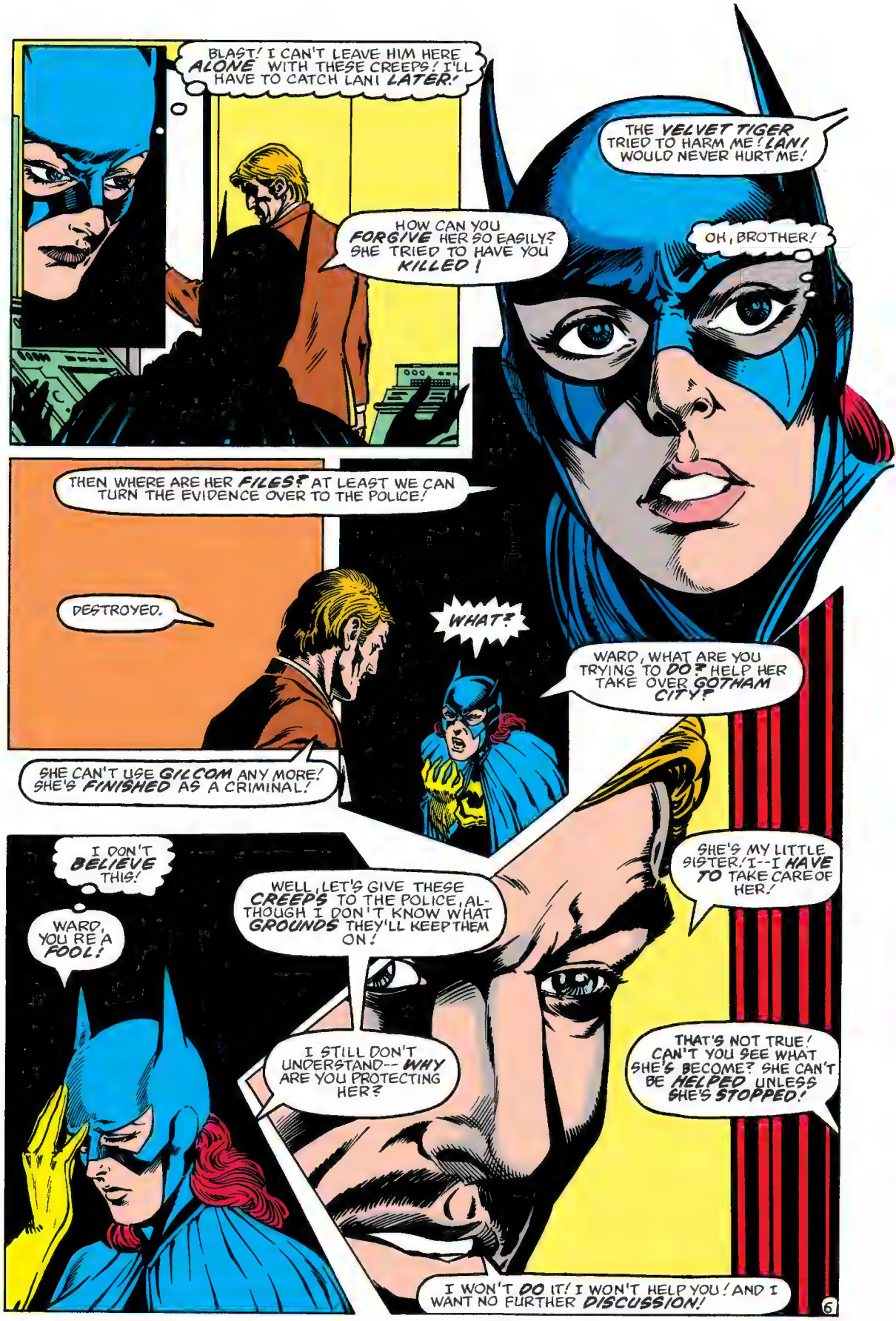

THE DAUGHTER OF GOTHAM'S POLICE COMMISSIONER, BARBARA GORDON FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE ON TWO FRONTS... IN HER JOB AT HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND IN HER SECRET IDENTITY AS THE DARKNIGHT DAMSEL...
Batgirl
LANI GILBERT WAS THE GIRL WHO HAD EVERYTHING: HALF OWNERSHIP OF GILCOM MADE HER RICH, FATE MADE HER BEAUTIFUL, AND THE MEDIA MADE HER FAMOUS. BUT LANI WAS GREEDY-- SO THE VELVET TIGER WAS BORN AND GILCOM BECAME HER SPRING-BOARD INTO COMPUTER CRIME.
BUT HER BROTHER DISCOVERED HER SECRET AND LANI ALMOST HAD HIM KILLED.
ALMOST.
THAT WAS HER FIRST MISTAKE.
OTHER EYES, STILL WATCHING, WERE WITNESS TO THIS FAMILY STRUGGLE. THE WATCHER'S NAME IS BATGIRL, AND SHE HAS DEVOTED HER LIFE TO FIGHTING BATTLES FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T. TO AID HER, SHE HAS A PHENOMENAL MEMORY AND ANALYTIC MIND, AND A SET OF FINELY HONED ATHLETIC SKILLS. NO FLASHY SUPER-POWERS. BUT THEN, SHE DOESN'T NEED ANY.
THAT LIGHT BELOW-- THAT'S WHERE LANI GILBERT-- THE VELVET TIGER-IS! IF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM HER BROTHER INVENTED WORKS, SHE'LL SOON HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM HALF THE COMPUTERS IN GOTHAM CITY!
IF I DON'T STOP HER!
GILCOM
I CAUGHT HER BY SURPRISE EARLIER, BUT THIS IS HER TERRITORY, AND SHE'S PROBABLY GOT MORE HIRED MUSCLE INSIDE!
OH NO! THAT'S WARD GILBERT! WHAT IS THAT FOOL DOING?

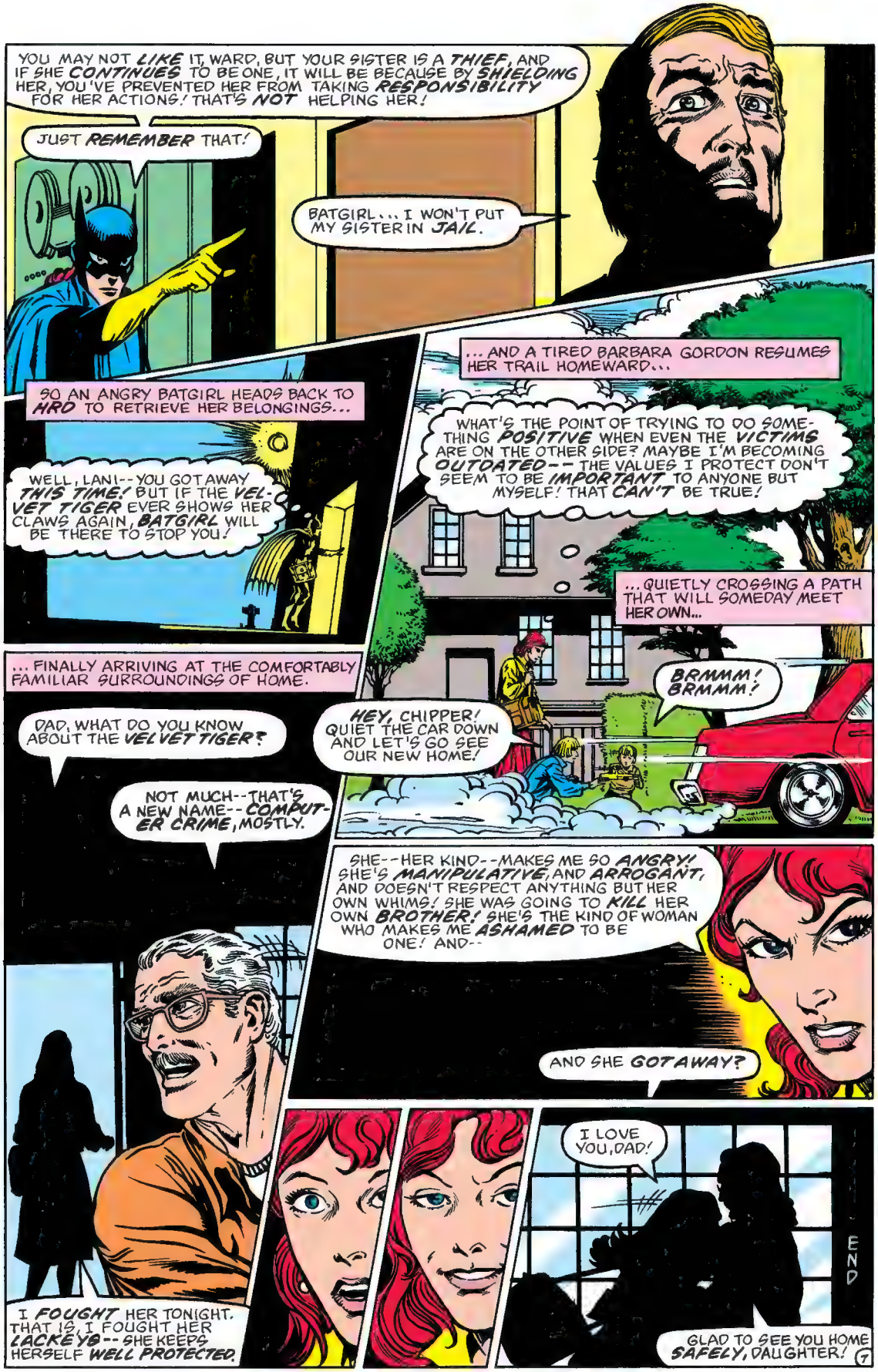

... WHEN VELVET PAWS CARESS THE GROUND!
BARBARA J. RANDALL.....WRITER
TREVOR VON EEDEN AND RODIN RODRIGUEZ.....ARTISTS
JANICE CHIANG.....LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO.....COLORIST
DICK GIORDANO.....EDITOR
I'VE GOT TO GET TO LANI BEFORE WARD DOES! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SHE'LL DO TO HIM!
SO MUCH FOR A SILENT ENTRANCE!
CRRASHH!!
TIGER! IT'S BATGIRL!
AGAIN? GET RID OF HER!
IT MAY SEEM TO THESE TOUGHS THAT THE OPPONENT THEY FACE IS A MERE ANNOYANCE...
SURE THING, TIGER! THAT BAT-LADY DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH!
NEITHER WILL YOU AFTER YOU GET A WHIFF OF THIS GAS PELLET!
UHHHHH...
...BUT BATGIRL'S BEEN UP AGAINST THAT ATTITUDE BEFORE...
2


THAT TAKES CARE OF TWO! TWO LEFT, BOTH WITH GUNS!
UHFF!
...AND SHE'S LEARNED THAT WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW...
HOLD IT, BATGIRL!
I'VE GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT...
...CAN HELP HER!
OOFFF!
MEANWHILE...
THAT OTHER EVIL SIDE OF YOU ALMOST LET YOU KILL ME, LANI! I HATE WHAT IT'S DONE TO YOU, WHAT IT'S MADE YOU! MAYBE I CAN'T DESTROY YOUR EVIL, BUT I CAN TRY!
...SO NO ONE ELSE NEED EVER KNOW OF IT! THIS WILL STAY SOLELY BETWEEN THE TWO OF US!
I'VE ALWAYS COVERED UP FOR YOU-- I DID YOUR HOMEWORK, FIXED THINGS WITH FATHER, TOOK THE BLAME FOR THINGS YOU'D DONE--SO I'LL COVER FOR YOU AGAIN, LANI! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, AS USUAL!
EILEEN LANI GILBERT
I'M TAKING ALL RECORDS OF YOUR EVIL HALF, LITTLE ONE...
YES--I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BANG!
OOPS!
3

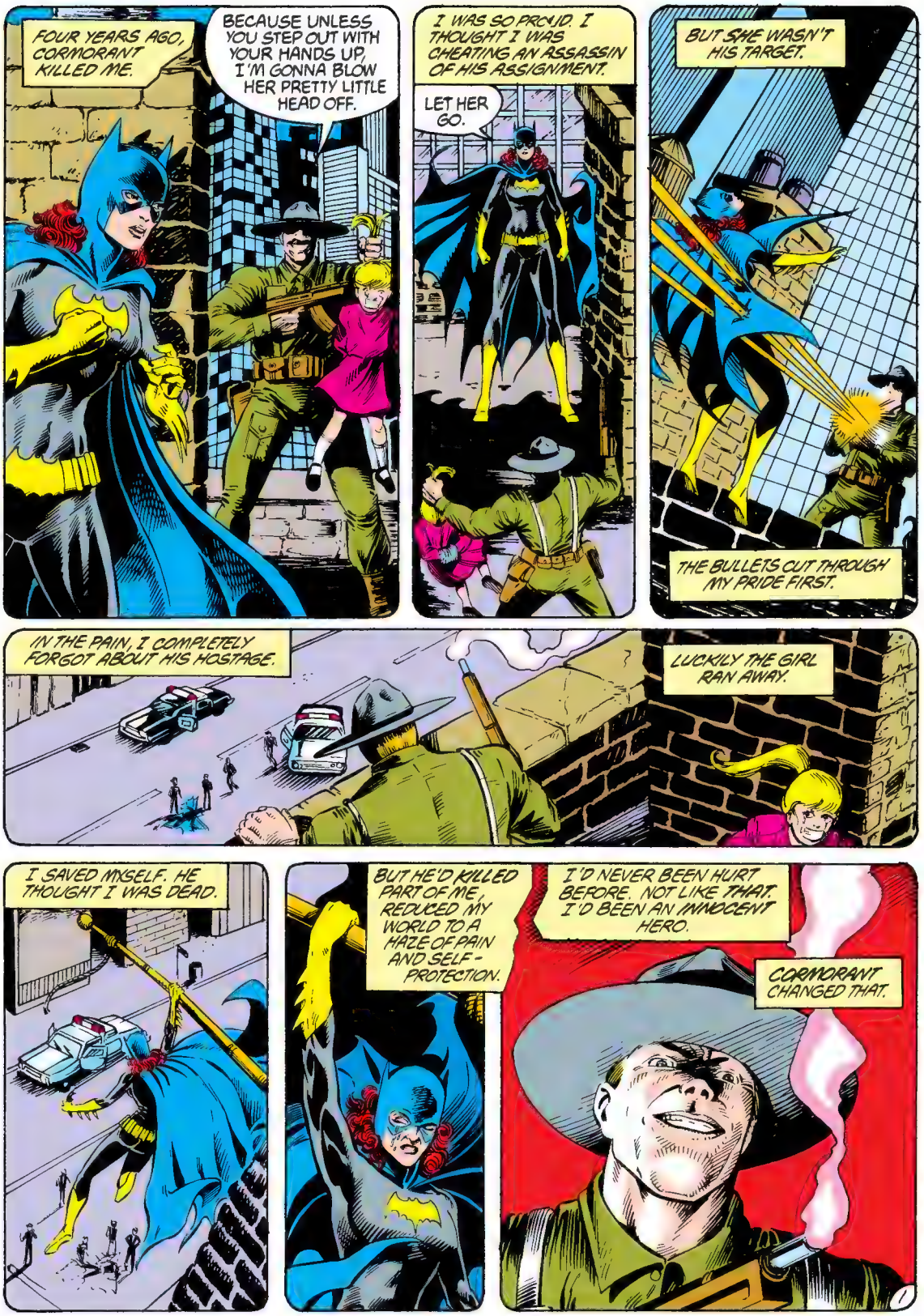
I CAN'T GIVE HIM THE CHANCE TO IMPROVE HIS AIM...
... BUT FORTUNATELY, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO "FIRE" A GUN!
GYAAGH!
WHIZZZ
THAT'S MY LAST PAIR OF CUFFS--I'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING ELSE FOR THE OTHERS!
SHE MUST HIRE CLONES-- THESE GUYS LOOK LIKE CARBON COPIES OF EACH OTHER! I--
LANI!
WARD? WITH A GUN? I'D BETTER GET IN THERE FAST!
YES, DEAR BROTHER?
I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS TO YOURSELF! LOOK AT YOU-- DRESSED LIKE THAT! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO BE?
RICH, WARD. I WANT MUCH MORE THAN I'LL EVER GET FROM GILCOM ALONE! I WANT POWER! AND I'M GOING TO GET IT!
I'M SORRY-- BELIEVE ME, I'M SORRY-- BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU CAN STOP ME? WARD, YOU ARE SO PATHETIC!
I WON'T LET YOU TRICK OTHER PEOPLE THE WAY YOU'VE TRICKED ME!
4

THAT GUNMAN BEHIND WARD-- I'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO GRAB ONE OF THEM! BUT MAYBE...
...IF THIS WORKS...
...AND IF YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT I BELIEVE YOU'D HAVE THE GUTS TO SHOOT ME...
... YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN I THOUGHT!
...I'LL ONLY HAVE TO GRAB ONE!
KA-POW!
BOOM
THE TERMINAL!
NO!!
I'M WARNING YOU, BATGIRL--YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED ME! I HAVE FRIENDS-- MANY FRIENDS-- AND I'LL GET YOU!
YOU LITTLE WITCH! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE...
I SWEAR I'LL GET YOU!
WARD! STOP HER!
NO, BATGIRL!
LET HER GO. HER PLANS ARE DESTROYED. THE EVIL ONE--THE TIGER-- IS FINISHED. LET LANI BE.
5


BLAST! I CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE ALONE WITH THESE CREEPS! I'LL HAVE TO CATCH LANI LATER!
HOW CAN YOU FORGIVE HER SO EASILY? SHE TRIED TO HAVE YOU KILLED!
THE VELVET TIGER TRIED TO HARM ME! LANI WOULD NEVER HURT ME!
OH, BROTHER!
THEN WHERE ARE HER FILES? AT LEAST WE CAN TURN THE EVIDENCE OVER TO THE POLICE!
DESTROYED.
WHAT?
WARD, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? HELP HER TAKE OVER GOTHAM CITY?
SHE CAN'T USE GILCOM ANY MORE! SHE'S FINISHED AS A CRIMINAL!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WARD, YOU'RE A FOOL!
WELL, LET'S GIVE THESE CREEPS TO THE POLICE, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT GROUNDS THEY'LL KEEP THEM ON!
SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER! I--I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HER?
THAT'S NOT TRUE! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT SHE'S BECOME? SHE CAN'T BE HELPED UNLESS SHE'S STOPPED!
I WON'T DO IT! I WON'T HELP YOU! AND I WANT NO FURTHER DISCUSSION!
6


YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT, WARD, BUT YOUR SISTER IS A THIEF, AND IF SHE CONTINUES TO BE ONE, IT WILL BE BECAUSE BY SHIELDING HER, YOU'VE PREVENTED HER FROM TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER ACTIONS! THAT'S NOT HELPING HER!
JUST REMEMBER THAT!
BATGIRL... I WON'T PUT MY SISTER IN JAIL.
SO AN ANGRY BATGIRL HEADS BACK TO HRO TO RETRIEVE HER BELONGINGS...
WELL, LANI--YOU GOT AWAY THIS TIME! BUT IF THE VELVET TIGER EVER SHOWS HER CLAWS AGAIN, BATGIRL WILL BE THERE TO STOP YOU!
...AND A TIRED BARBARA GORDON RESUMES HER TRAIL HOMEWARD...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WHEN EVEN THE VICTIMS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE? MAYBE I'M BECOMING OUTDATED-- THE VALUES I PROTECT DON'T SEEM TO BE IMPORTANT TO ANYONE BUT MYSELF! THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
...QUIETLY CROSSING A PATH THAT WILL SOMEDAY MEET HER OWN...
BRMMM! BRMMM!
...FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE COMFORTABLY FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS OF HOME.
HEY, CHIPPER! QUIET THE CAR DOWN AND LET'S GO SEE OUR NEW HOME!
DAD, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE VELVET TIGER?
NOT MUCH--THAT'S A NEW NAME--COMPUTER CRIME, MOSTLY.
SHE--HER KIND--MAKES ME SO ANGRY! SHE'S MANIPULATIVE, AND ARROGANT, AND DOESN'T RESPECT ANYTHING BUT HER OWN WHIMS! SHE WAS GOING TO KILL HER OWN BROTHER! SHE'S THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO MAKES ME ASHAMED TO BE ONE! AND--
AND SHE GOT AWAY?
I FOUGHT HER TONIGHT. THAT IS, I FOUGHT HER LACKEYS--SHE KEEPS HERSELF WELL PROTECTED.
I LOVE YOU, DAD!
GLAD TO SEE YOU HOME SAFELY, DAUGHTER!
END
7

SPECIAL
1
1988
BATGIRL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
RANDALL, KITSON & PATTERSON


FOUR YEARS AGO, CORMORANT KILLED ME.
BECAUSE UNLESS YOU STEP OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP, I'M GONNA BLOW HER PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OFF.
I WAS SO PROUD. I THOUGHT I WAS CHEATING AN ASSASSIN OF HIS ASSIGNMENT.
LET HER GO.
BUT SHE WASN'T HIS TARGET.
THE BULLETS CUT THROUGH MY PRIDE FIRST.
IN THE PAIN, I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT HIS HOSTAGE.
LUCKILY THE GIRL RAN AWAY.
I SAVED MYSELF. HE THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.
BUT HE'D KILLED PART OF ME, REDUCED MY WORLD TO A HAZE OF PAIN AND SELF-PROTECTION.
I'D NEVER BEEN HURT BEFORE. NOT LIKE THAT. I'D BEEN AN INNOCENT HERO.
CORMORANT CHANGED THAT.

THE LAST BATGIRL STORY
BARBARA RANDALL writer
BARRY KITSON penciller
BRUCE D. PATTERSON inker
DENNY O'NEIL editor
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
CARL GAFFORD colorist
HISTORY OF WAR 601 - 799
MILITARY 9014
THAT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO, BUT IT NEVER STOPS HAPPENING. HE'S BEEN KILLING ME IN MY DREAMS EVER SINCE.
EVERY TIME I'M SCARED, I SEE HIM. EVERY TIME I DREAM OF HIM, I WAKE UP SHAKING.
AND NOW THIS. A MURDER RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE, IN MY LIBRARY.
DID HE LEAVE THE HAT TO TAUNT ME? DOES HE KNOW WHO I AM?
DOESN'T MATTER. THIS TIME I'VE GOT HIM COLD. NICE OF HIM TO LEAVE HIS CALLING CARD. HOPE HIS HEAD GETS COLD WITHOUT IT.
POLISH WARS
The ALLIES
MANHATTAN PROJECT
D-DAY
MODERN WARS
GREAT SEA BATTLES
JAPANESE EDITION
2
3

STAY BACK, EVERYBODY. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.
PAT, WE'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
YES, BARBARA.
STELLA, GO WITH HER, PLEASE.
PAT, YOU CAN GO LIE DOWN IN THE BACK IF THAT'LL HELP...
SHE'LL BE OKAY, BABS-- IT'S JUST SUCH A SHOCK TO SEE SOMEONE... LIKE THAT.
ROGER AND STELLA, CLOSE AND LOCK THE DOORS -- EVERYONE WILL BE NEEDED FOR QUESTIONING. STAY THERE AND LET THE POLICE IN WHEN THEY ARRIVE. ALTHEA, HELP EMMA KEEP THE KIDS QUIET AND OUT OF HERE --
I'LL MAKE SURE NOBODY TOUCHES THE BODY.
YES, MISS. THERE'S BEEN A KILLING. GOTHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY. PLEASE SEND SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY.
THEY'LL BE HERE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES.
THANKS.
GIVES ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO CHECK FOR CLUES.
CORMORANT'S BEHIND THIS-- I KNOW IT! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE IGNORED HIM FOR SO LONG.
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID! BY NOT GOING AFTER CORMORANT AFTER HE TRIED TO KILL ME, I'VE LEFT HIM FREE TO KILL AGAIN! HE WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND I'VE FAILED! WELL, NOW'S THE TIME TO FIX THINGS!
4

WHAT'S THIS?
HERE COME THE POLICE!
SORRY, GUYS, BUT I KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS AND THIS MAY HELP ME FIND HIM.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT US ANOTHER NUT JOB.
WHY HERE? WHY THIS BOY?
CAUSE OF DEATH'S PRETTY OBVIOUS. NO OTHER MARKS.
INTERESTING... IT'S AN UNUSUAL TYPE OF BLADE...
CORMORANT GENERALLY USES A GUN-- HE MUST HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE NOISE.
I.D. SAYS HE'S DAVID SCARANO. GET ME A LINE ON RELATIVES, RAY.
OKAY-- LET'S GET HIM BAGGED UP AND CARTED OUTTA HERE. MARK AND PHOTO FIRST.
YOU'RE JIM GORDON'S KID, AREN'TCHA?
YES, OFFICER.
WE'LL HAVE TO QUESTION EVERYBODY HERE, OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S PROB'LY JUST A FORMALITY. LOOKS TO BE A HIT AND RUN.
I'LL GET A ROOM READY FOR YOU.
WE'LL TRY TO BE AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE.
IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
5

FINALLY! EVERYBODY'S OUT OF HERE!
LIBRARY
I KNOW HE'S GUILTY -- NOW TO PROVE IT!
DAVID SCARANO. THEY'VE GOT A LOCKED FILE ON HIM. HE MUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL.
NOW TO BREAK THOSE LOCKS...
SCARANO,DAVID JOSEPH
b. 4 APRIL 1966
1742 BEZEL AVE.
HARINGTON,NY 10431
(914) 555-4093
See also
SCARANO, ANTHONY PAUL
aka GENERAL SCARR
HE'S GENERAL SCARR'S SON? BUT SCARR'S THE ONE WHO HIRED CORMORANT TO KILL ME!
NOTE: SPECIAL CASE
CONTACT DA'S OFFICE
Prior arrests: (no convictions)
11/14/87 Assault
MEYERSON, N.
9/27/87 Rape/Assault
MUNOZ, L.
4/19/87 Assault
PHIERSON, A.
1/4/87 Rape/Assault
HE'S GOT A HISTORY OF ARRESTS WITHOUT CONVICTIONS -- SCARR MUST BE PUTTING PRESSURE ON SOMEBODY BIG.
ALL HIS CRIMES ARE VIOLENT. CROSS-CHECK SHOWS ALL FEMALE VICTIMS. HIS FATHER MUST HAVE DECIDED HE WAS BECOMING A LIABILITY AND SENT HIS TOP ASSASSIN AFTER HIM.
QUIT FILE
CORMORANT.
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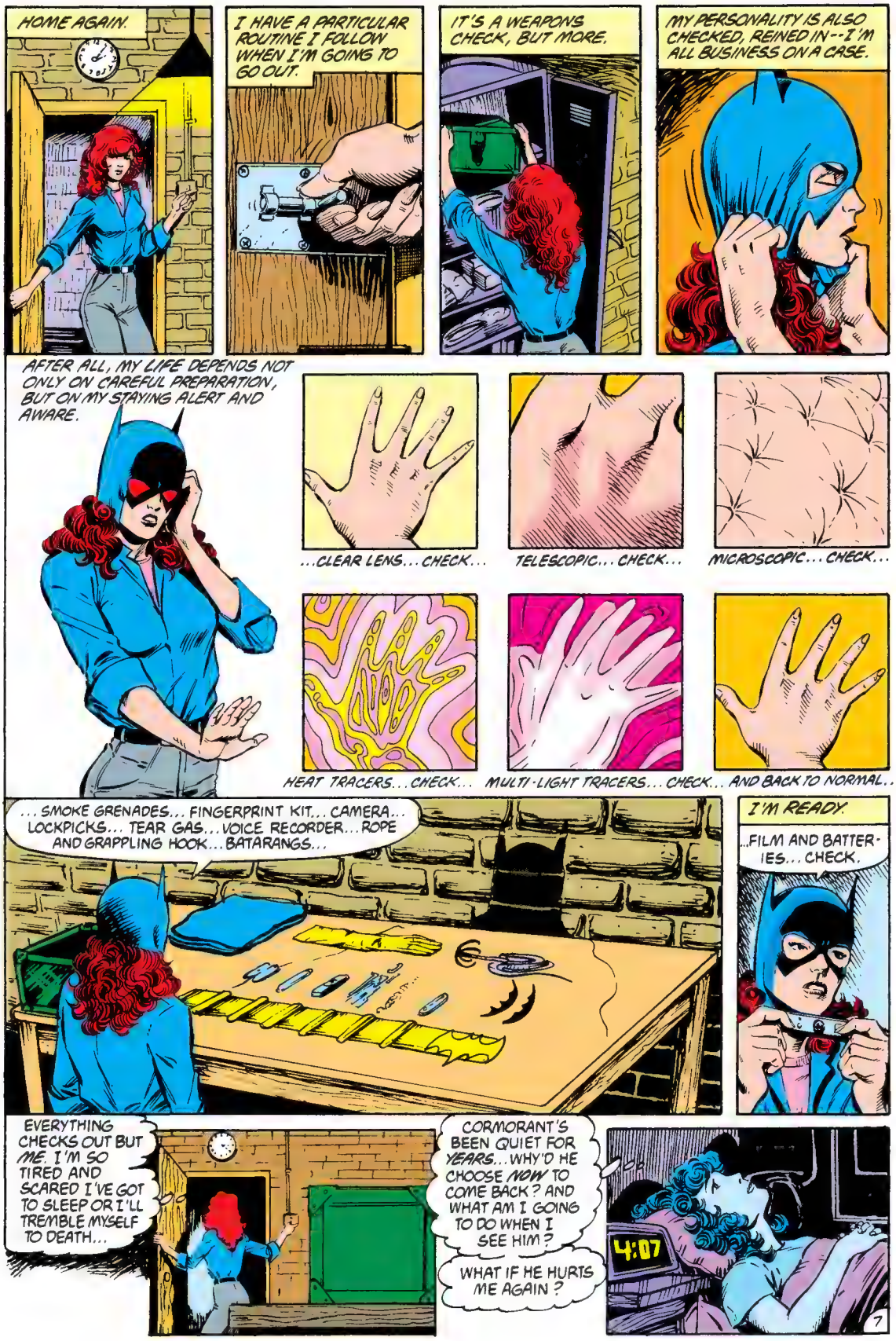
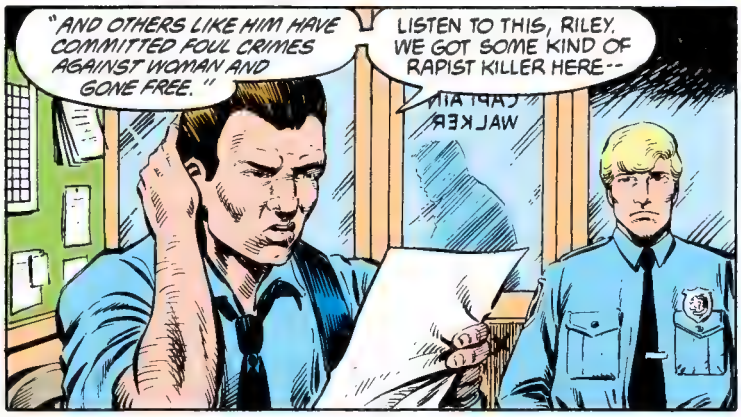
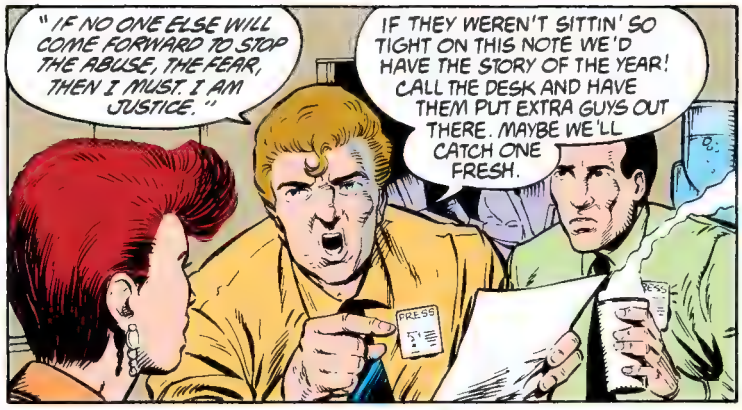

HOME AGAIN.
I HAVE A PARTICULAR ROUTINE I FOLLOW WHEN I'M GOING TO GO OUT.
IT'S A WEAPONS CHECK, BUT MORE.
MY PERSONALITY IS ALSO CHECKED, REINED IN--I'M ALL BUSINESS ON A CASE.
AFTER ALL, MY LIFE DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON CAREFUL PREPARATION, BUT ON MY STAYING ALERT AND AWARE.
...CLEAR LENS... CHECK...
TELESCOPIC... CHECK...
MICROSCOPIC... CHECK...
HEAT TRACERS... CHECK...
MULTI-LIGHT TRACERS... CHECK...
AND BACK TO NORMAL...
... SMOKE GRENADES... FINGERPRINT KIT... CAMERA... LOCKPICKS... TEAR GAS... VOICE RECORDER... ROPE AND GRAPPLING HOOK... BATARANGS...
I'M READY.
...FILM AND BATTERIES... CHECK.
EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT BUT ME. I'M SO TIRED AND SCARED I'VE GOT TO SLEEP OR I'LL TREMBLE MYSELF TO DEATH...
CORMORANT'S BEEN QUIET FOR YEARS... WHY'D HE CHOOSE NOW TO COME BACK? AND WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WHEN I SEE HIM?
WHAT IF HE HURTS ME AGAIN?
4:07
7

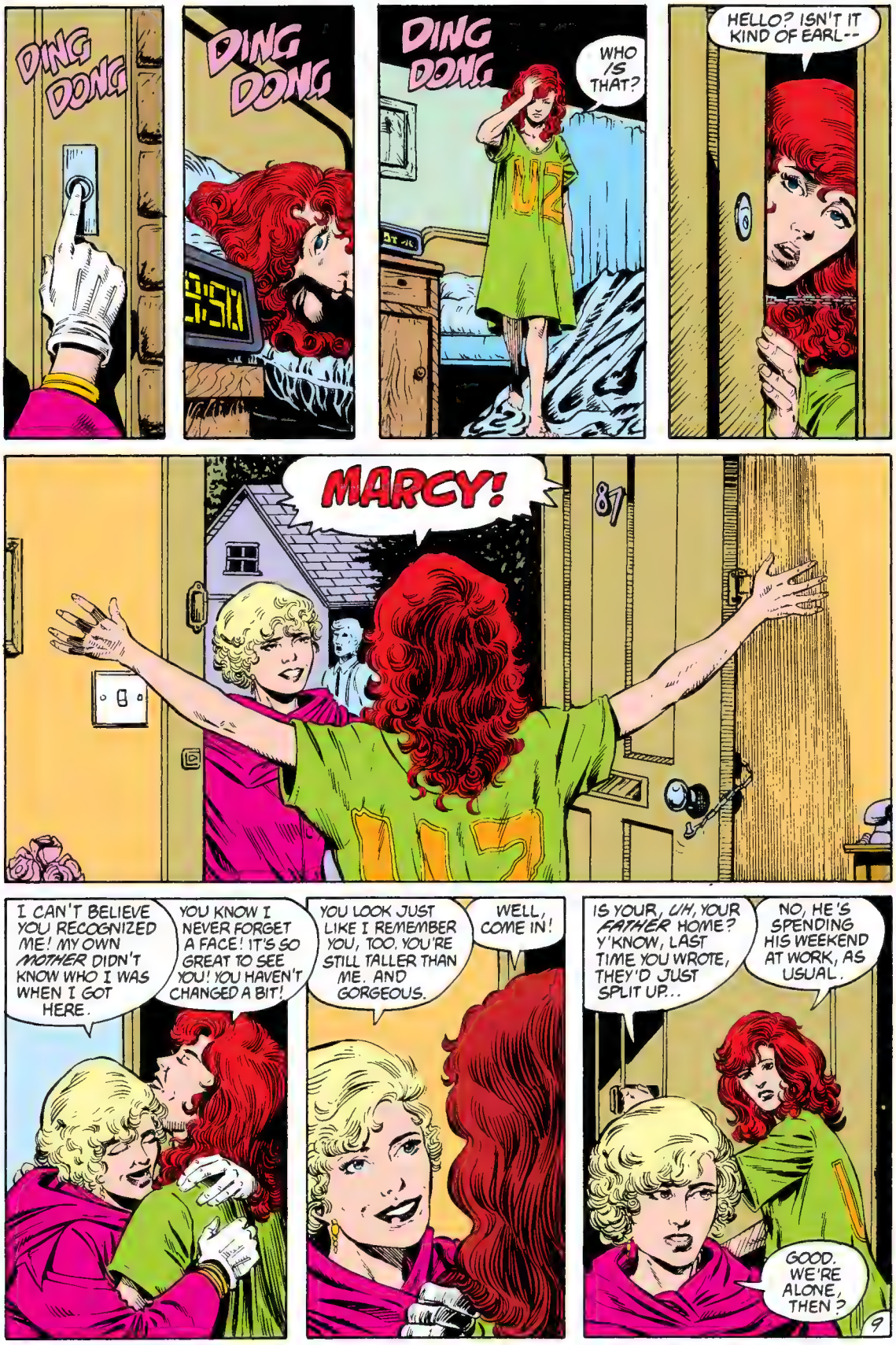
GOTHAM CITY POLICE 13TH PRECINCT STATION. 5:09 AM
13TH PRECINCT

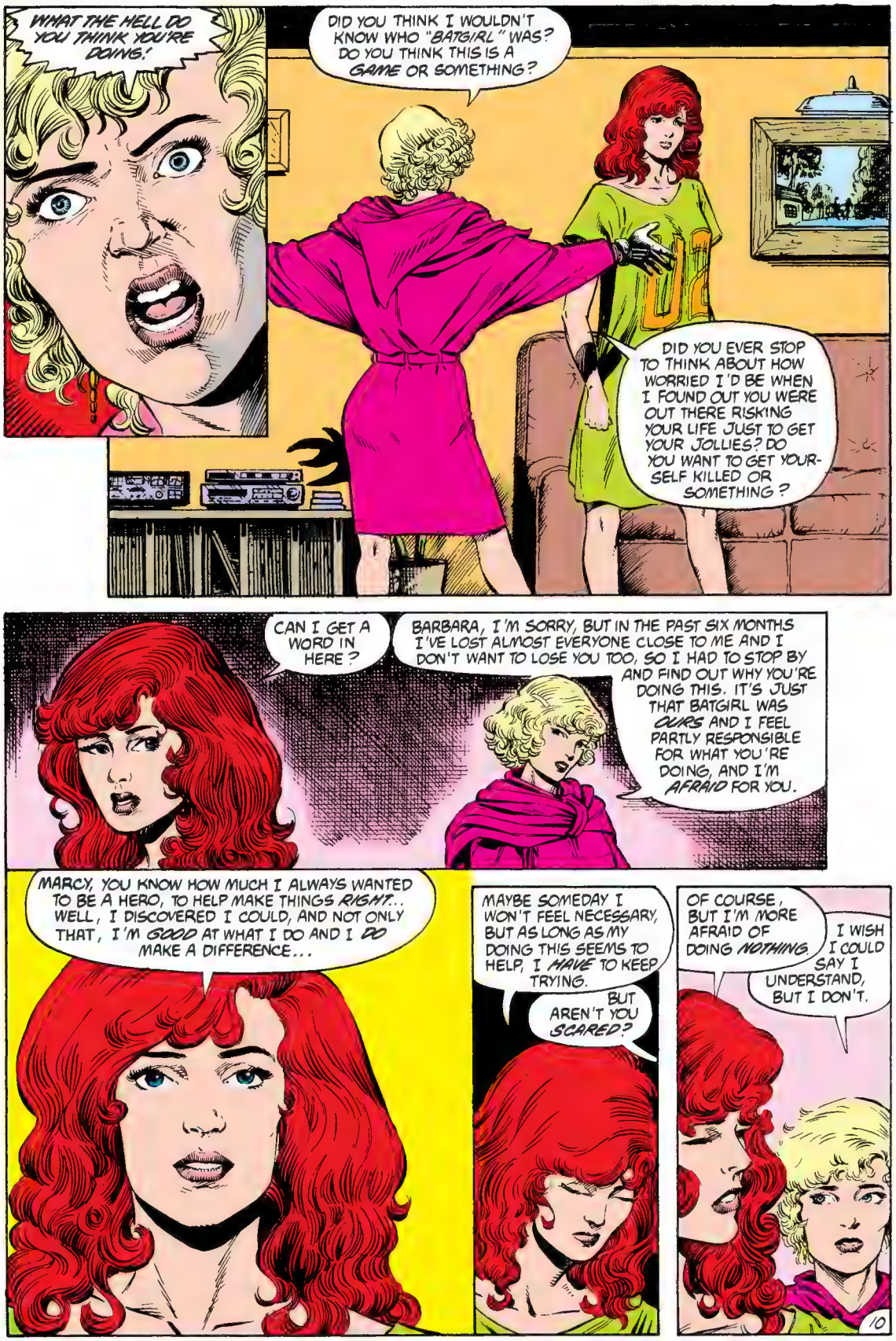
WHAT'S THIS? "I DON'T CARE FOR KILLING, BUT IT MUST BE DONE. THIS MAN--"
GP

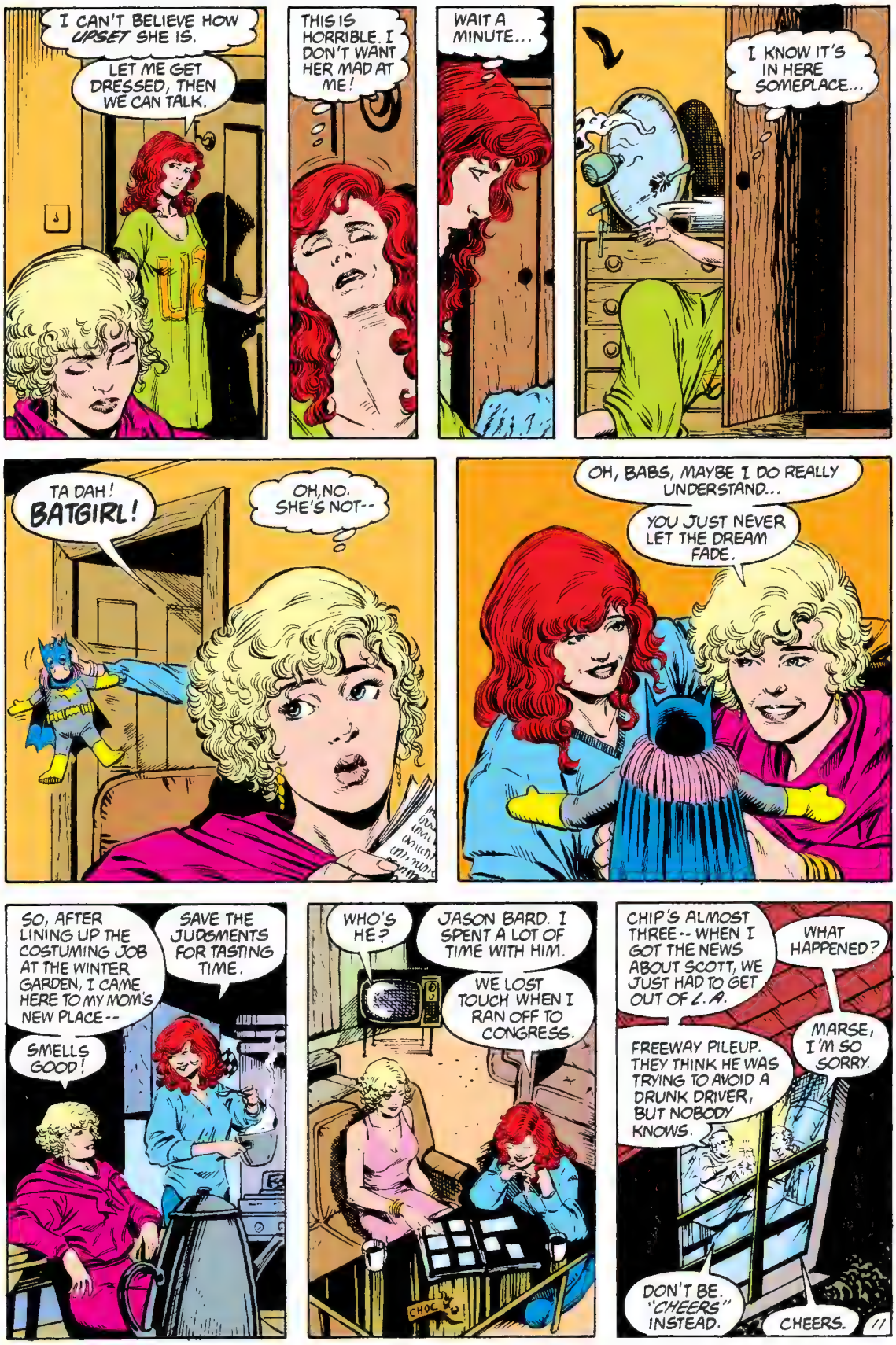

"AND OTHERS LIKE HIM HAVE COMMITTED FOUL CRIMES AGAINST WOMAN AND GONE FREE."
LISTEN TO THIS, RILEY. WE GOT SOME KIND OF RAPIST KILLER HERE--


"IF NO ONE ELSE WILL COME FORWARD TO STOP THE ABUSE, THE FEAR, THEN I MUST. I AM JUSTICE."
IF THEY WEREN'T SITTIN' SO TIGHT ON THIS NOTE WE'D HAVE THE STORY OF THE YEAR! CALL THE DESK AND HAVE THEM PUT EXTRA GUYS OUT THERE. MAYBE WE'LL CATCH ONE FRESH.
PRESS

"I AM THE HAND THAT DELIVERS WOMANKIND FROM FEAR WITH A SINGLE SLASH." THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE MYSTERIOUS VIGILANTE WHO DELIVERED A DEAD BODY TO THE 13TH PRECINCT EARLY THIS MORNING.
09:01
WGTV WILL BE BRINGING YOU UPDATES ON "SLASH" AS THEY ARRIVE. WE RETURN YOU NOW TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM.
8


DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
WHO IS THAT?
HELLO? ISN'T IT KIND OF EARL--
MARCY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU RECOGNIZED ME! MY OWN MOTHER DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS WHEN I GOT HERE.
YOU KNOW I NEVER FORGET A FACE! IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE I REMEMBER YOU, TOO. YOU'RE STILL TALLER THAN ME. AND GORGEOUS.
WELL, COME IN!
IS YOUR, UH, YOUR FATHER HOME? Y'KNOW, LAST TIME YOU WROTE, THEY'D JUST SPLIT UP...
NO, HE'S SPENDING HIS WEEKEND AT WORK, AS USUAL.
GOOD. WE'RE ALONE, THEN?
9


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW WHO "BATGIRL" WAS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME OR SOMETHING?
DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK ABOUT HOW WORRIED I'D BE WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE OUT THERE RISKING YOUR LIFE JUST TO GET YOUR JOLLIES? DO YOU WANT TO GET YOURSELF KILLED OR SOMETHING?
CAN I GET A WORD IN HERE?
BARBARA, I'M SORRY, BUT IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS I'VE LOST ALMOST EVERYONE CLOSE TO ME AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU TOO, SO I HAD TO STOP BY AND FIND OUT WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS. IT'S JUST THAT BATGIRL WAS OURS AND I FEEL PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING, AND I'M AFRAID FOR YOU.
MARCY, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A HERO, TO HELP MAKE THINGS RIGHT... WELL, I DISCOVERED I COULD, AND NOT ONLY THAT, I'M GOOD AT WHAT I DO AND I DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
MAYBE SOMEDAY I WON'T FEEL NECESSARY, BUT AS LONG AS MY DOING THIS SEEMS TO HELP, I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING.
BUT AREN'T YOU SCARED?
OF COURSE, BUT I'M MORE AFRAID OF DOING NOTHING.
I WISH I COULD SAY I UNDERSTAND, BUT I DON'T.
10


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW UPSET SHE IS.
LET ME GET DRESSED, THEN WE CAN TALK.
THIS IS HORRIBLE. I DON'T WANT HER MAD AT ME!
WAIT A MINUTE...
I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEPLACE...
TA DAH! BATGIRL!
OH, NO. SHE'S NOT--
OH, BABS, MAYBE I DO REALLY UNDERSTAND...
YOU JUST NEVER LET THE DREAM FADE.
SO, AFTER LINING UP THE COSTUMING JOB AT THE WINTER GARDEN, I CAME HERE TO MY MOM'S NEW PLACE--
SAVE THE JUDGMENTS FOR TASTING TIME.
SMELLS GOOD!
WHO'S HE?
JASON BARD. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH HIM.
WE LOST TOUCH WHEN I RAN OFF TO CONGRESS.
CHOC
CHIP'S ALMOST THREE-- WHEN I GOT THE NEWS ABOUT SCOTT, WE JUST HAD TO GET OUT OF L.A.
WHAT HAPPENED?
FREEWAY PILEUP. THEY THINK HE WAS TRYING TO AVOID A DRUNK DRIVER, BUT NOBODY KNOWS.
MARSE, I'M SO SORRY.
DON'T BE. "CHEERS" INSTEAD.
CHEERS.

Joe's

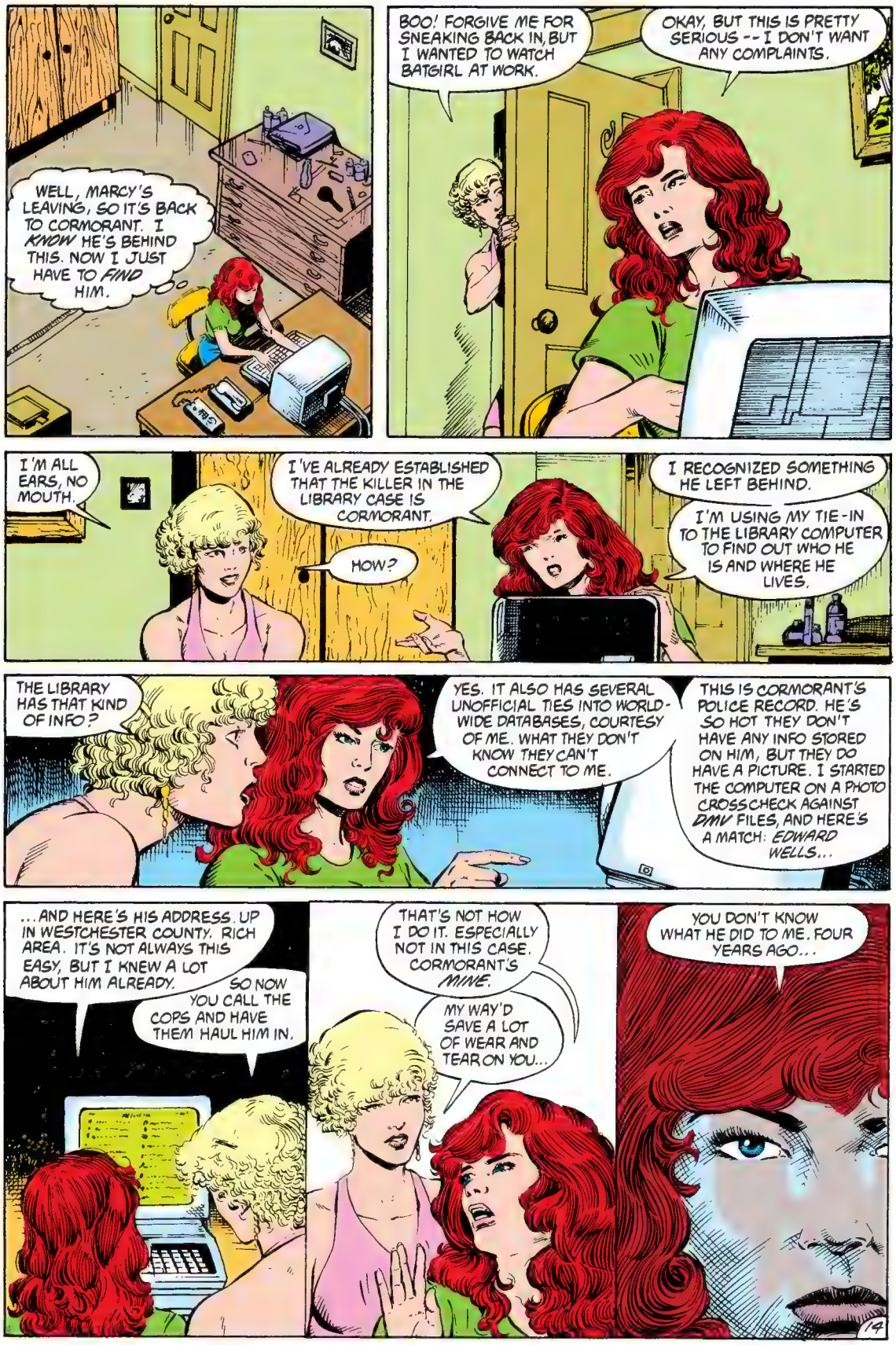
HELLO, MR. IVERSON.

I HAVE JUST KILLED YOU. I HAVE DONE THIS BECAUSE OF YOUR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN.

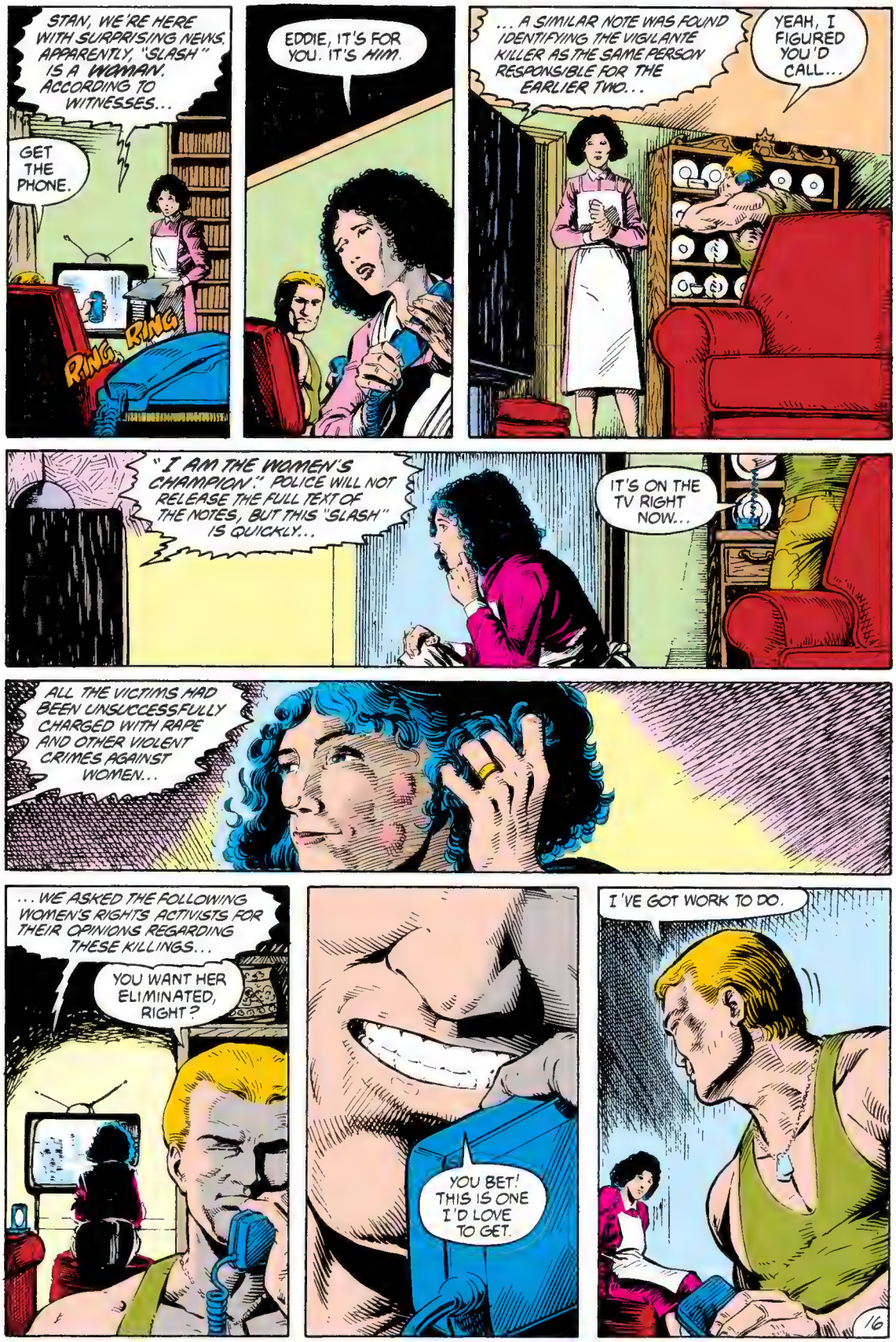
YOU WILL DIE HERE ON THE STREET, MR. IVERSON, AND NO ONE WILL HELP YOU.
JUST AS NO ONE COULD HELP THEM: LETICIA MUNOZ, CRYSTAL KALE, KATHRYN BAUTIER.

NO. YOU WILL NOT CRY OUT. YOU WILL REMAIN SILENT AS YOUR FOUL LIFE SLIPS AWAY. THE WOMEN ARE NO LONGER HELPLESS, MR. IVERSON...
HEL-URK!
12

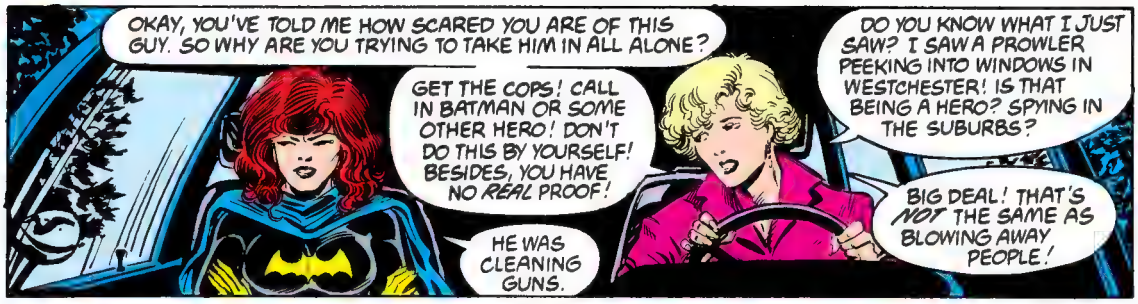
HE OKAY?
FINE. I'VE GOT HIM.
URK.
St. Martin
St. Martin
St. Martins
THAT MAN! IS HE--?
HE'S BLEEDIN'!
HE'S DEAD!
GET THE COPS.
Ltd.
ANDALL
NOW OPEN
13


WELL, MARCY'S LEAVING, SO IT'S BACK TO CORMORANT. I *KNOW* HE'S BEHIND THIS. NOW I JUST HAVE TO *FIND* HIM.
BOO! FORGIVE ME FOR SNEAKING BACK IN, BUT I WANTED TO WATCH BATGIRL AT WORK.
OKAY, BUT THIS IS PRETTY SERIOUS -- I DON'T WANT ANY COMPLAINTS.
I'M ALL EARS, NO MOUTH.
I'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT THE KILLER IN THE LIBRARY CASE IS CORMORANT.
HOW?
I RECOGNIZED SOMETHING HE LEFT BEHIND.
I'M USING MY TIE-IN TO THE LIBRARY COMPUTER TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS AND WHERE HE LIVES.
THE LIBRARY HAS THAT KIND OF INFO?
YES. IT ALSO HAS SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL TIES INTO WORLD-WIDE DATABASES, COURTESY OF ME. WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW THEY CAN'T CONNECT TO ME.
THIS IS CORMORANT'S POLICE RECORD. HE'S SO HOT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY INFO STORED ON HIM, BUT THEY DO HAVE A PICTURE. I STARTED THE COMPUTER ON A PHOTO CROSSCHECK AGAINST *DMV* FILES, AND HERE'S A MATCH: *EDWARD WELLS*...
...AND HERE'S HIS ADDRESS. UP IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY. RICH AREA. IT'S NOT ALWAYS THIS EASY, BUT I KNEW A LOT ABOUT HIM ALREADY.
SO NOW YOU CALL THE COPS AND HAVE THEM HAUL HIM IN.
THAT'S NOT HOW I DO IT. ESPECIALLY NOT IN THIS CASE. CORMORANT'S *MINE*.
MY WAY'D SAVE A LOT OF WEAR AND TEAR ON YOU...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID TO ME. FOUR YEARS AGO...
14

BEST FRIENDSHIP I EVER HAD AND I MAY HAVE JUST TOSSED IT IN THE GUTTER.
I WISH WE HADN'T HAD TO ARGUE...
BUT I JUST HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF!
IF I DON'T FACE UP TO HIM ALONE, I'LL NEVER STOP BEING AFRAID OF HIM!
AND I'LL NEVER KNOW IF I COULD.
THERE HE IS. BEER, TV-- HE DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE A KILLER. WHY DOES HE HAVE TO LOOK SO NORMAL?
...THIRD VICTIM OF THE KILLER CALLED "SLASH." WE TAKE YOU NOW LIVE TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WHERE HUGH TYSON HAS THIS REPORT...
15

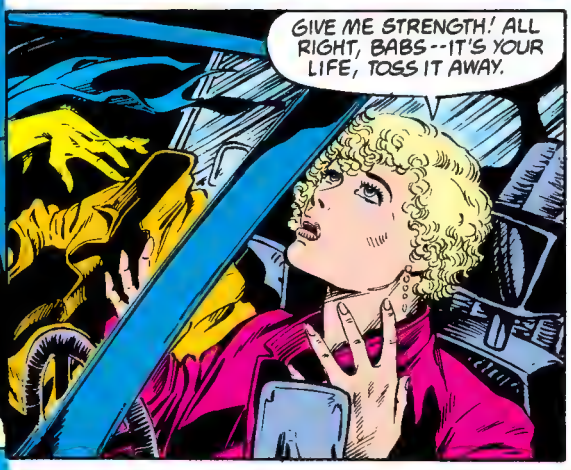

STAN, WE'RE HERE WITH SURPRISING NEWS. APPARENTLY, "SLASH" IS A WOMAN. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES...
GET THE PHONE.
RING
RING
EDDIE, IT'S FOR YOU. IT'S HIM.
... A SIMILAR NOTE WAS FOUND IDENTIFYING THE VIGILANTE KILLER AS THE SAME PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EARLIER TWO...
YEAH, I FIGURED YOU'D CALL...
"I AM THE WOMEN'S CHAMPION." POLICE WILL NOT RELEASE THE FULL TEXT OF THE NOTES, BUT THIS "SLASH" IS QUICKLY...
IT'S ON THE TV RIGHT NOW...
ALL THE VICTIMS HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY CHARGED WITH RAPE AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN...
... WE ASKED THE FOLLOWING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOR THEIR OPINIONS REGARDING THESE KILLINGS...
YOU WANT HER ELIMINATED, RIGHT?
YOU BET! THIS IS ONE I'D LOVE TO GET.
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
16

I'LL BE IN THE BACK.
THIS SLASH'S BEEN PRETTY BRAVE AGAINST UNARMED MEN...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW WELL SHE HANDLES SOMEONE TOUGHER...
PIECE OF CAKE!
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL SLASH?
STAY OUT OF THIS. DINNER READY?
I'LL HAVE TO RUN TO THE STORE.
HE'S CLEANING WEAPONS. BUT I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SEEN HIM COMMIT ANY CRIMES.
EVEN IF I KNOW HE'S GUILTY, I CAN'T ATTACK HIM. BUT HE'LL TRY AGAIN, TRY TO KILL SOMEONE ELSE.
WHEN HE DOES, I'LL BE READY FOR HIM. BUT NOT NOW.
I'M SO SCARED... WHAT IF HE SEES ME?
BATGIRL! GET IN!
MARCY?
17


OKAY, YOU'VE TOLD ME HOW SCARED YOU ARE OF THIS GUY. SO WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE HIM IN ALL ALONE?
GET THE COPS! CALL IN BATMAN OR SOME OTHER HERO! DON'T DO THIS BY YOURSELF! BESIDES, YOU HAVE NO REAL PROOF!
HE WAS CLEANING GUNS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I JUST SAW? I SAW A PROWLER PEEKING INTO WINDOWS IN WESTCHESTER! IS THAT BEING A HERO? SPYING IN THE SUBURBS?
BIG DEAL! THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS BLOWING AWAY PEOPLE!

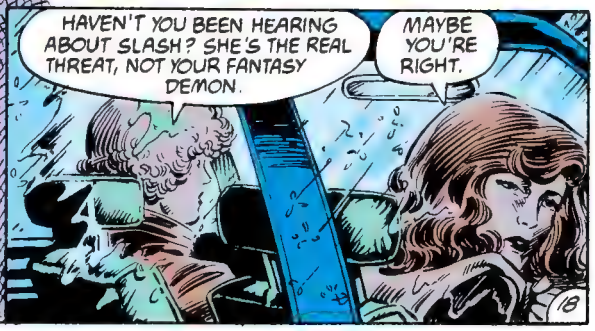
HERE, PUT THIS ON. WE'RE GETTING TO THE CITY. DON'T WANT PEOPLE SEEING YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT.

AAAAAAAAAAH!
KEEP DRIVING, MARCY. I'LL SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE.
BARBARA!

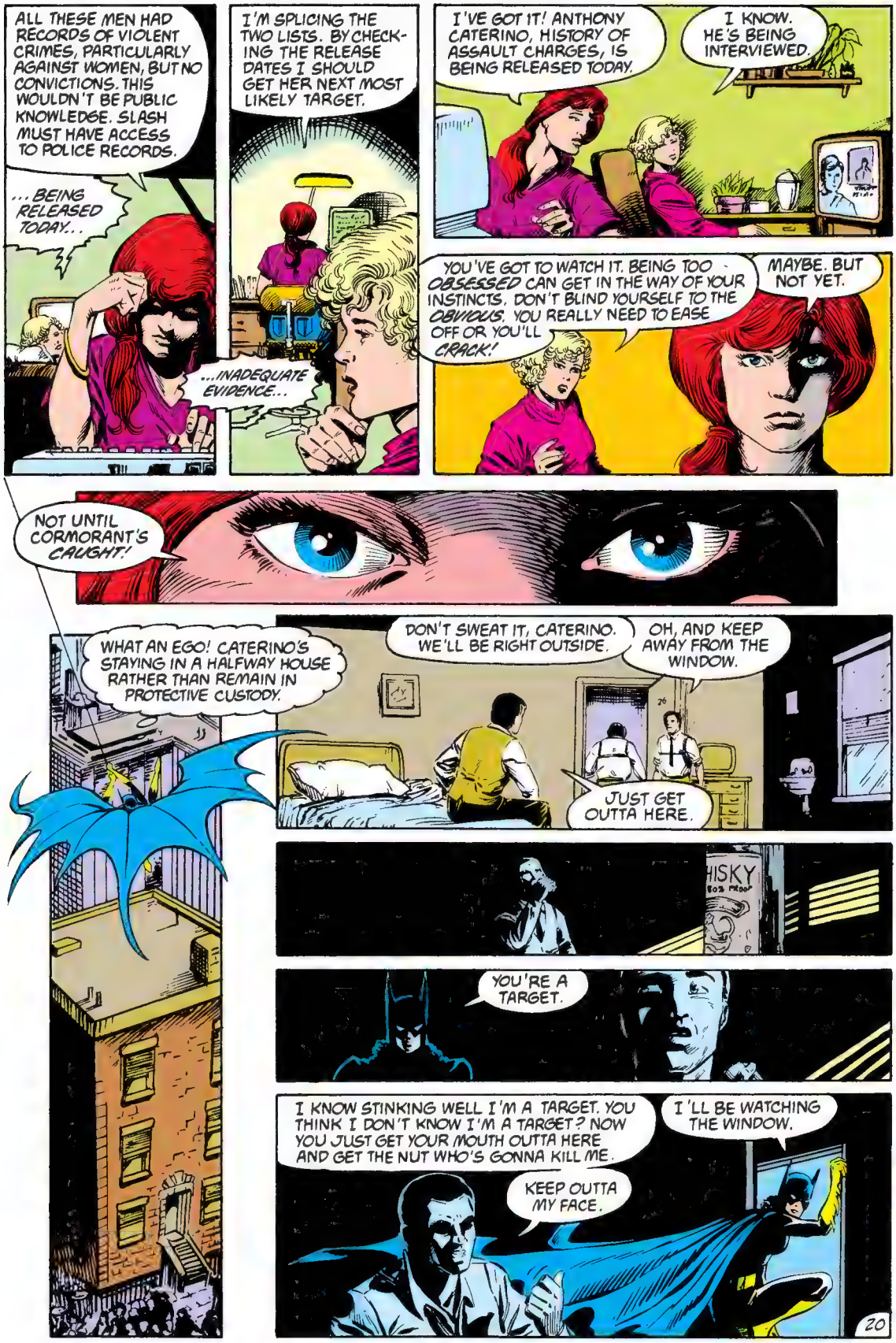

GIVE ME STRENGTH! ALL RIGHT, BABS--IT'S YOUR LIFE, TOSS IT AWAY.

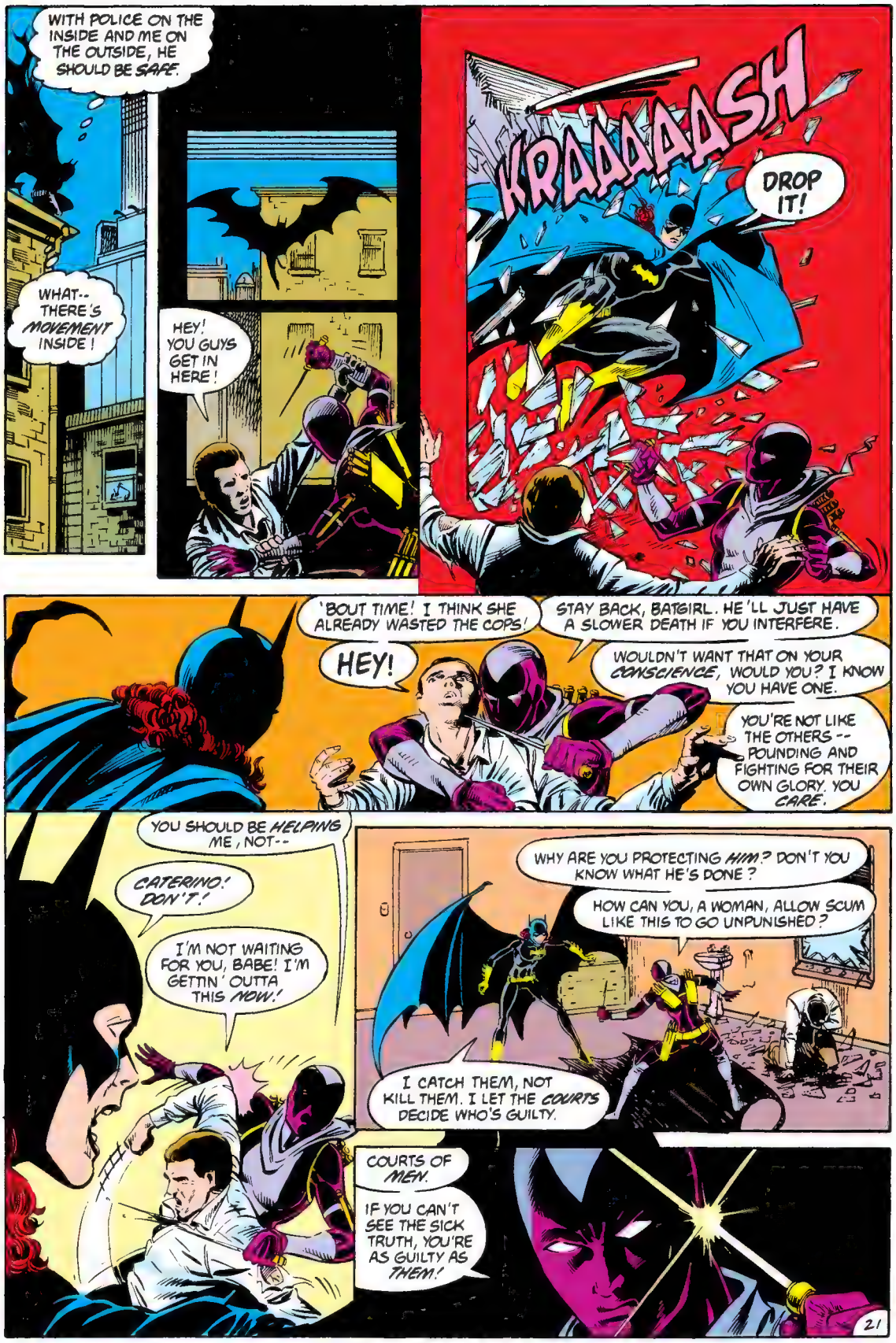
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT NEEDED HERE.

OKAY, YOU WIN. LET'S GO.
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW? WHILE YOU'RE CHASING THIS CORMORANT, YOU'RE LETTING A REAL KILLER GO FREE.

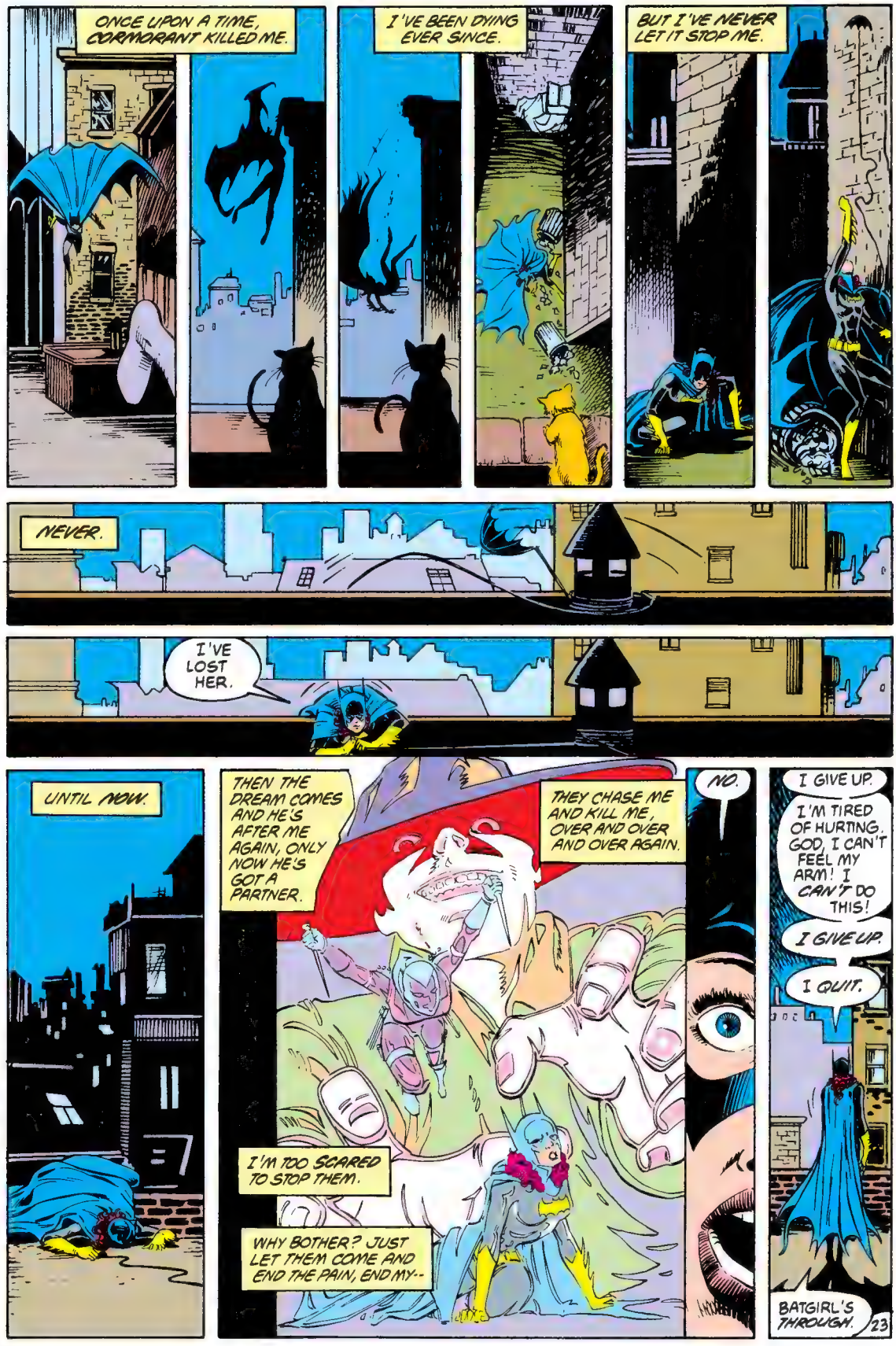

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HEARING ABOUT SLASH? SHE'S THE REAL THREAT, NOT YOUR FANTASY DEMON.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
18

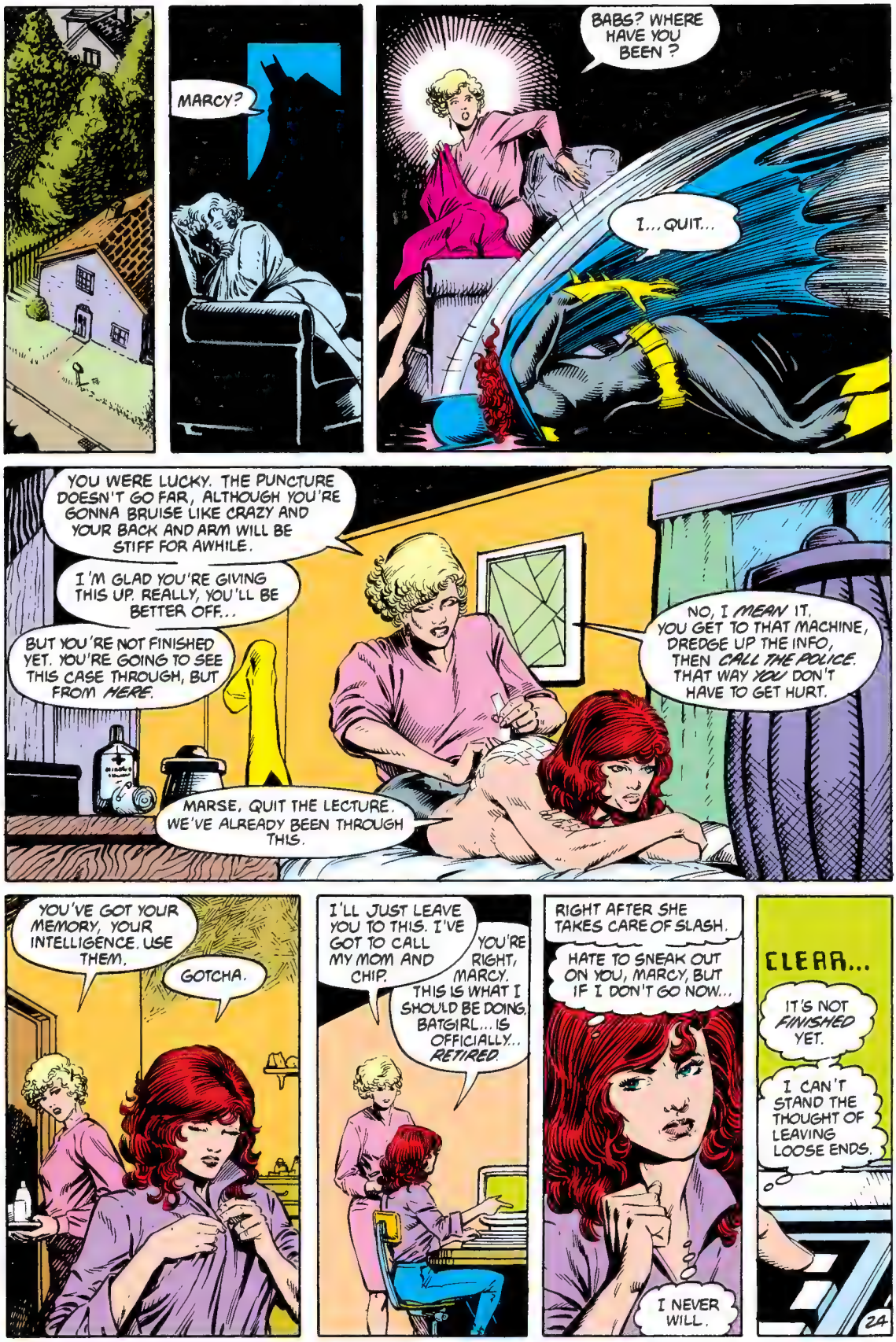
WHO?
OH, IT'S YOU.
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU. THERE'S SOMEONE YOU NEED TO ADD TO YOUR LIST OF EVIL MEN.
TELL ME MORE.
IS HE THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
HE'S DONE WORSE. HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU, SO YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM FIRST. I'VE PREPARED A FILE ON HIM...
CORMORANT
I KNOW YOU DID IT, CORMORANT. I JUST HAVE TO PROVE IT. HOWEVER, SLASH COMES FIRST.
19


ALL THESE MEN HAD RECORDS OF VIOLENT CRIMES, PARTICULARLY AGAINST WOMEN, BUT NO CONVICTIONS. THIS WOULDN'T BE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. SLASH MUST HAVE ACCESS TO POLICE RECORDS.
...BEING RELEASED TODAY...
I'M SPLICING THE TWO LISTS. BY CHECKING THE RELEASE DATES I SHOULD GET HER NEXT MOST LIKELY TARGET.
...INADEQUATE EVIDENCE...
I'VE GOT IT! ANTHONY CATERINO, HISTORY OF ASSAULT CHARGES, IS BEING RELEASED TODAY.
I KNOW. HE'S BEING INTERVIEWED.
YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH IT. BEING TOO OBSESSED CAN GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR INSTINCTS. DON'T BLIND YOURSELF TO THE OBVIOUS. YOU REALLY NEED TO EASE OFF OR YOU'LL CRACK!
MAYBE. BUT NOT YET.
NOT UNTIL CORMORANT'S CAUGHT!
WHAT AN EGO! CATERINO'S STAYING IN A HALFWAY HOUSE RATHER THAN REMAIN IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.
DON'T SWEAT IT, CATERINO. WE'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE.
OH, AND KEEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOW.
JUST GET OUTTA HERE.
HISKY
YOU'RE A TARGET.
I KNOW STINKING WELL I'M A TARGET. YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW I'M A TARGET? NOW YOU JUST GET YOUR MOUTH OUTTA HERE AND GET THE NUT WHO'S GONNA KILL ME.
I'LL BE WATCHING THE WINDOW.
KEEP OUTTA MY FACE.
20

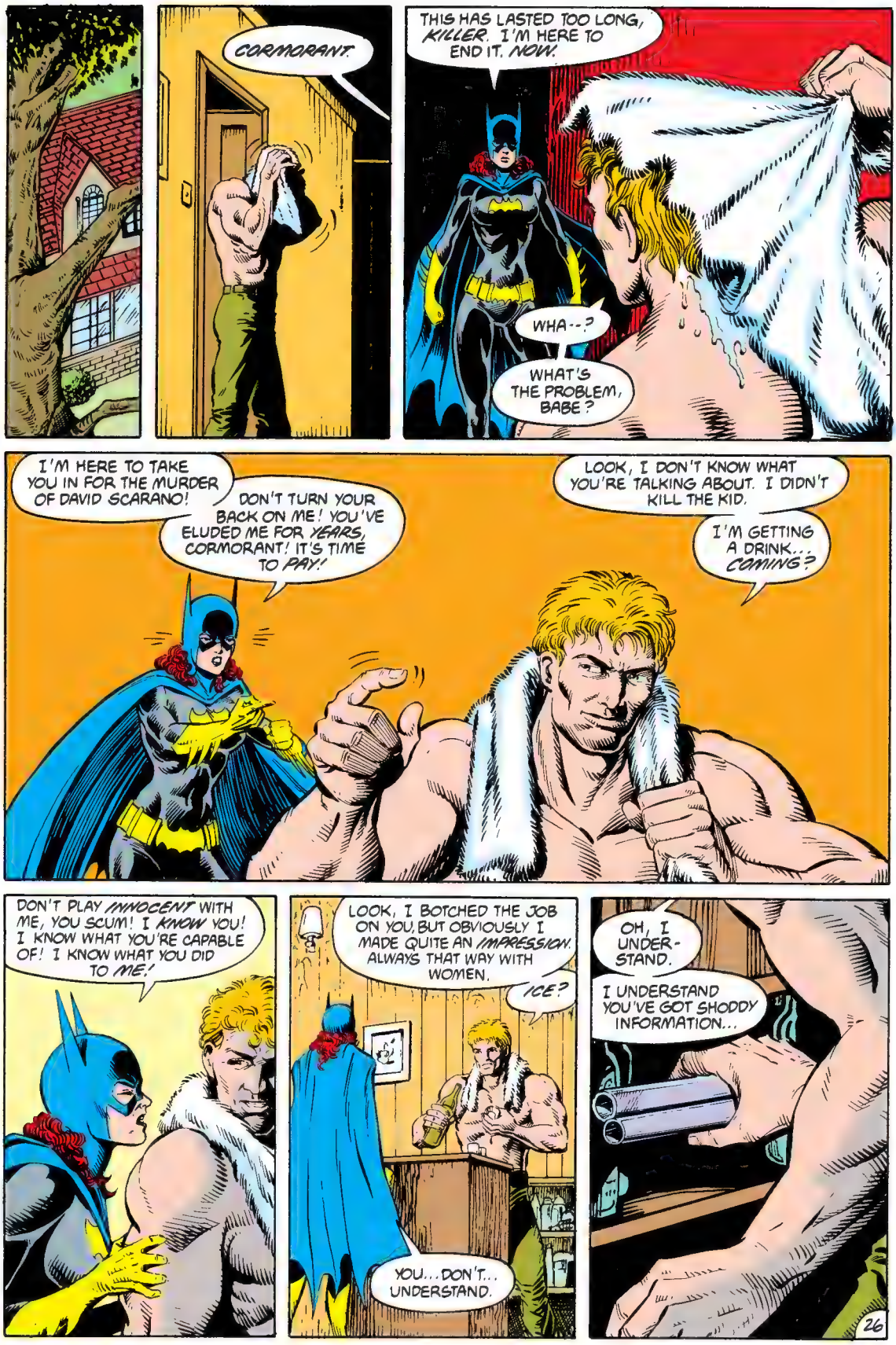

WITH POLICE ON THE INSIDE AND ME ON THE OUTSIDE, HE SHOULD BE SAFE.
WHAT-- THERE'S MOVEMENT INSIDE!
HEY! YOU GUYS GET IN HERE!
KRAAAASH
DROP IT!
'BOUT TIME! I THINK SHE ALREADY WASTED THE COPS!
HEY!
STAY BACK, BATGIRL. HE'LL JUST HAVE A SLOWER DEATH IF YOU INTERFERE.
WOULDN'T WANT THAT ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, WOULD YOU? I KNOW YOU HAVE ONE.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS -- POUNDING AND FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN GLORY. YOU CARE.
YOU SHOULD BE HELPING ME, NOT--
CATERINO! DON'T!
I'M NOT WAITING FOR YOU, BABE! I'M GETTIN' OUTTA THIS NOW!
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE?
HOW CAN YOU, A WOMAN, ALLOW SCUM LIKE THIS TO GO UNPUNISHED?
I CATCH THEM, NOT KILL THEM. I LET THE COURTS DECIDE WHO'S GUILTY.
COURTS OF MEN.
IF YOU CAN'T SEE THE SICK TRUTH, YOU'RE AS GUILTY AS THEM!
21

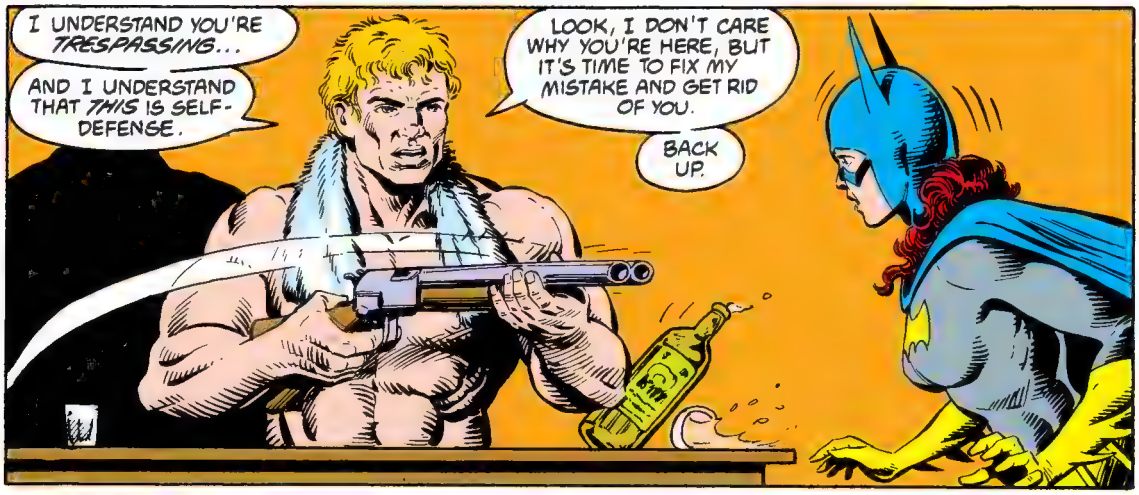
SO GET OUT OF MY WAY!
IF YOU CAN'T DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, THEN DON'T KEEP ME FROM MY WORK!
SEE HOW WEAK THEY'VE MADE YOU? YOU SHOULDN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO HURT YOU!
MEN WANT WOMEN TO BE WEAK, DEFENSELESS! I CAN'T ALLOW THAT!
I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THEM--
--I AM THEIR ONLY PROTECTION--
--AND I WON'T LET YOU STOP ME!
IF YOU HAD SEEN CRYSTAL, SEEN WHAT HE'D DONE TO HER, YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
NO ONE WHO HAS FELT THAT KIND OF PAIN CAN LET IT CONTINUE.
FOR EVERY ATTACKER I REMOVE, ANOTHER INNOCENT WOMAN IS SAFE.
MY LUCK STRIKES AGAIN.
HER BLADE CUT ME, BUT MY CAPE CAUGHT THE WORST OF IT. I'M HURT, BUT NOT DEAD.
CATERINO'S NOT SO LUCKY.
WATCH YOUR BACK, WOMAN. I'M COMING TO GET YOU.
I DON'T BUY YOUR LIES.
NO KILLING IS JUSTIFIED. EVER.
22


ONCE UPON A TIME, CORMORANT KILLED ME.
I'VE BEEN DYING EVER SINCE.
BUT I'VE NEVER LET IT STOP ME.
NEVER.
I'VE LOST HER.
UNTIL NOW.
THEN THE DREAM COMES AND HE'S AFTER ME AGAIN, ONLY NOW HE'S GOT A PARTNER.
THEY CHASE ME AND KILL ME, OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
NO.
I'M TOO SCARED TO STOP THEM.
WHY BOTHER? JUST LET THEM COME AND END THE PAIN, END MY--
I GIVE UP.
I'M TIRED OF HURTING. GOD, I CAN'T FEEL MY ARM! I CAN'T DO THIS!
I GIVE UP.
I QUIT.
BATGIRL'S THROUGH.
23

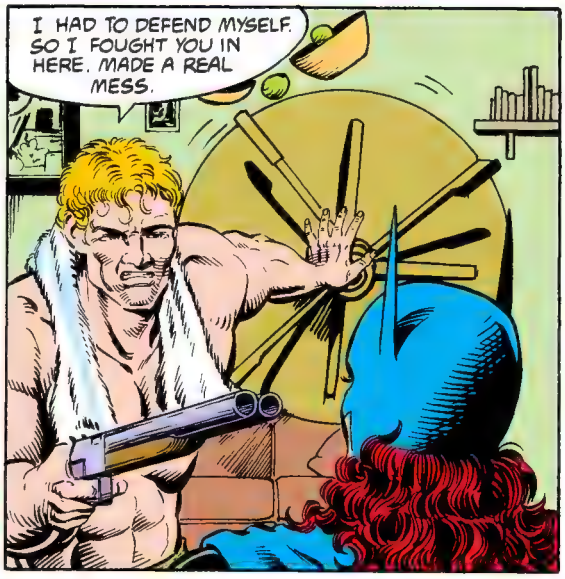

MARCY?
BABS? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?
I...QUIT...
YOU WERE LUCKY. THE PUNCTURE DOESN'T GO FAR, ALTHOUGH YOU'RE GONNA BRUISE LIKE CRAZY AND YOUR BACK AND ARM WILL BE STIFF FOR AWHILE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE GIVING THIS UP. REALLY, YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF...
BUT YOU'RE NOT FINISHED YET. YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THIS CASE THROUGH, BUT FROM *HERE*.
NO, I *MEAN* IT. YOU GET TO THAT MACHINE, DREDGE UP THE INFO, THEN *CALL THE POLICE*. THAT WAY *YOU* DON'T HAVE TO GET HURT.
MARSE, QUIT THE LECTURE. WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THIS.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR MEMORY, YOUR INTELLIGENCE. USE THEM.
GOTCHA.
I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TO THIS. I'VE GOT TO CALL MY MOM AND CHIP.
YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCY. THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING. BATGIRL... IS OFFICIALLY... *RETIRED*.
RIGHT AFTER SHE TAKES CARE OF SLASH.
HATE TO SNEAK OUT ON YOU, MARCY, BUT IF I DON'T GO NOW...
I NEVER WILL.
CLEAR...
IT'S NOT *FINISHED* YET.
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING LOOSE ENDS.
24

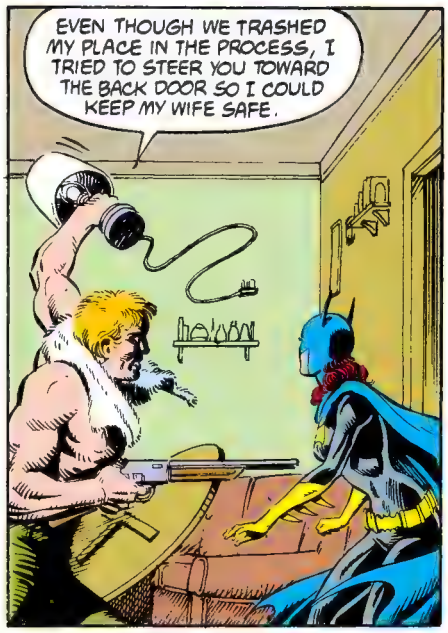
1:00
MY ARM'S KILLING ME, BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO GET OUT!
TO BE A PROTECTOR!
3:00
I'LL WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE INSIDE, THEN CORNER THEM. THEY SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH--
JEWELERS
JEWELERS
--TROUBLE?
JEWELERS
JEWELERS
5:00
THEY'VE GOT WHAT THEY WANTED, NOW TO--
CONTI CHEMICA
--ANOTHER?
CONTI
7:00
IT'S BEEN A DAY OF BAD TIMING, BUT I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
I'M JUST A MINOR FORCE AMONG HEROES THESE DAYS. THIS CITY-- THIS WORLD--IS WELL PROTECTED WITHOUT MY HELP.
IN FACT, I CAN EVEN LEAVE SLASH TO THE OTHERS. WITH MY COVERT HELP, THEY'LL CATCH HER IN NO TIME!
WHICH LEAVES JUST ONE DANGEROUSLY LOOSE END-- CORMORANT! NOT ENOUGH REAL EVIDENCE ON HIM TO LEAVE TO THE OTHERS. WHEN HE'S CAUGHT, BATGIRL CAN RETIRE IN PEACE!
25


CORMORANT.
THIS HAS LASTED TOO LONG, KILLER. I'M HERE TO END IT. NOW.
WHA--?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, BABE?
I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU IN FOR THE MURDER OF DAVID SCARANO!
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME! YOU'VE ELUDED ME FOR YEARS, CORMORANT! IT'S TIME TO PAY!
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I DIDN'T KILL THE KID.
I'M GETTING A DRINK... COMING?
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT WITH ME, YOU SCUM! I KNOW YOU! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF! I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO ME!
LOOK, I BOTCHED THE JOB ON YOU, BUT OBVIOUSLY I MADE QUITE AN IMPRESSION. ALWAYS THAT WAY WITH WOMEN.
ICE?
YOU...DON'T... UNDERSTAND.
OH, I UNDER-STAND.
I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE GOT SHODDY INFORMATION...
26

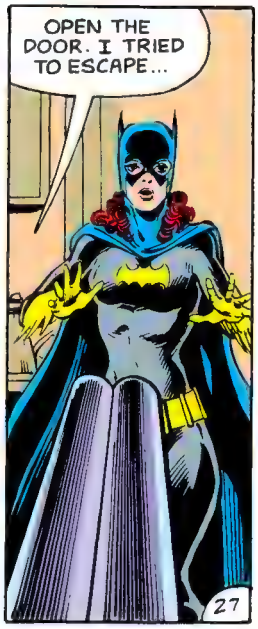

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE TRESPASSING...
AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS SELF-DEFENSE.
LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHY YOU'RE HERE, BUT IT'S TIME TO FIX MY MISTAKE AND GET RID OF YOU.
BACK UP.

TOO BAD YOU WENT CRAZY AND ATTACKED ME WITH MY OWN GUN...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY YOU CAME HERE, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE...

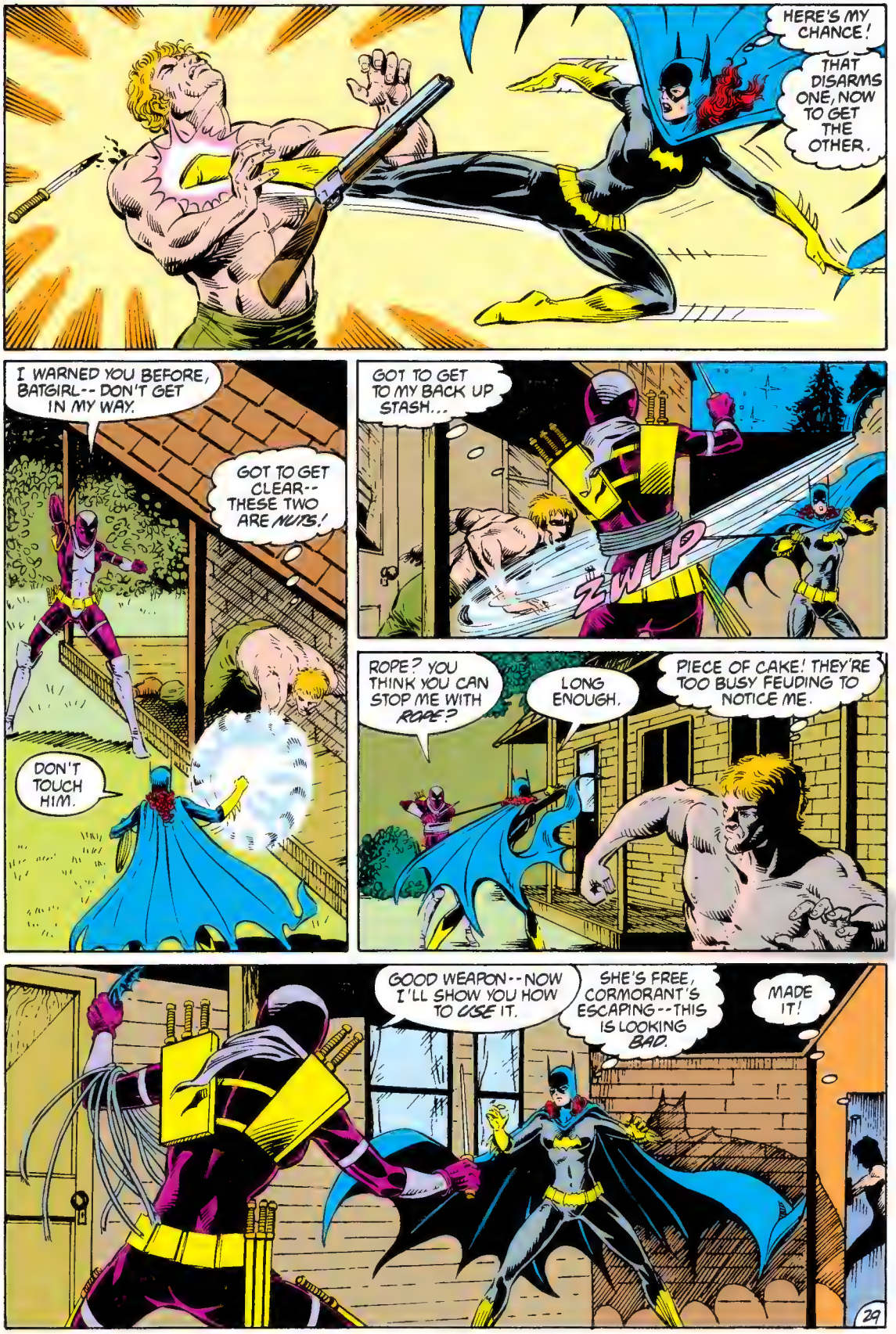

I HAD TO DEFEND MYSELF. SO I FOUGHT YOU IN HERE. MADE A REAL MESS.

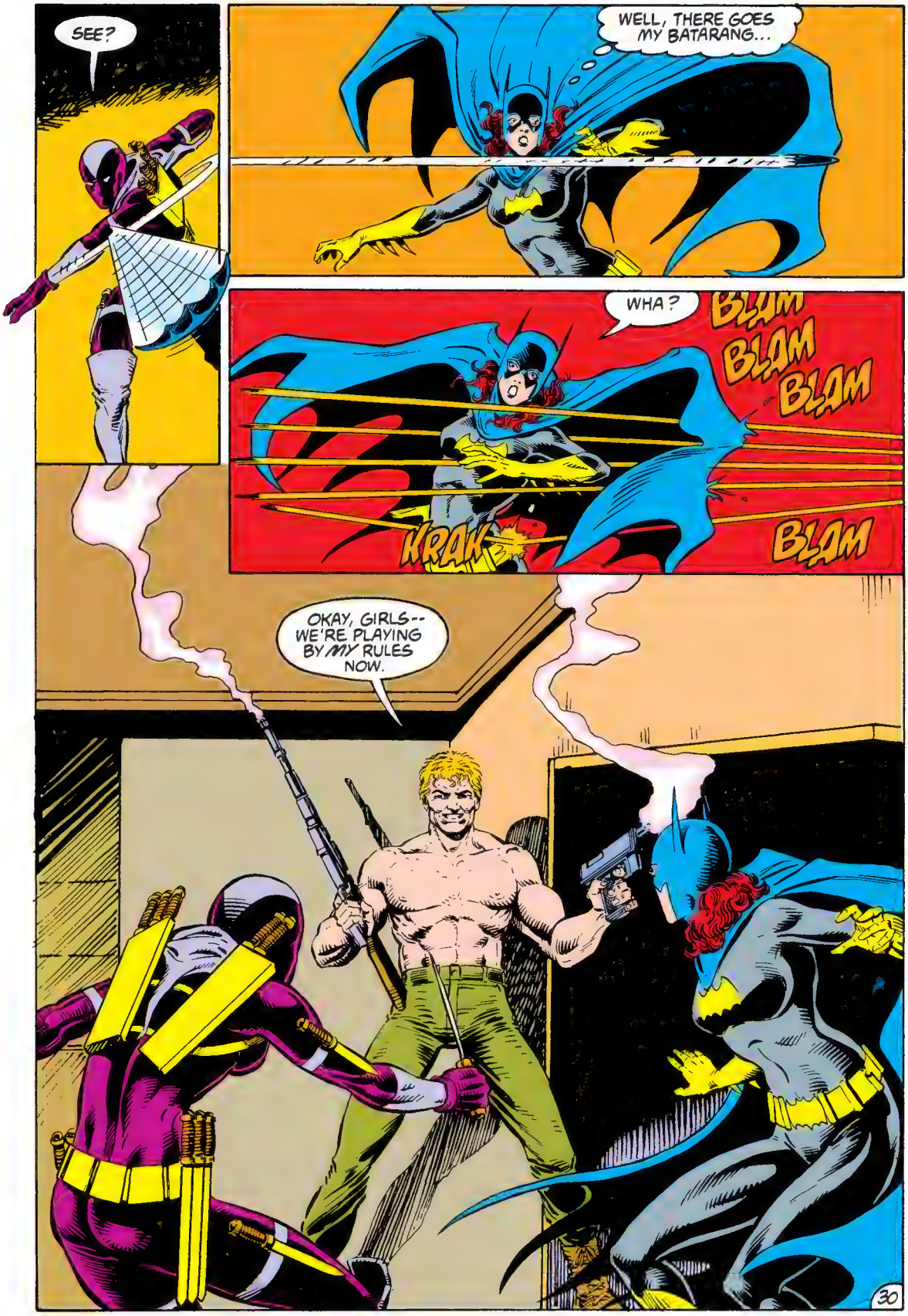

EVEN THOUGH WE TRASHED MY PLACE IN THE PROCESS, I TRIED TO STEER YOU TOWARD THE BACK DOOR SO I COULD KEEP MY WIFE SAFE.

OH MY GOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LEAVE. GO OUT THE FRONT. I'M TAKING CARE OF THIS.

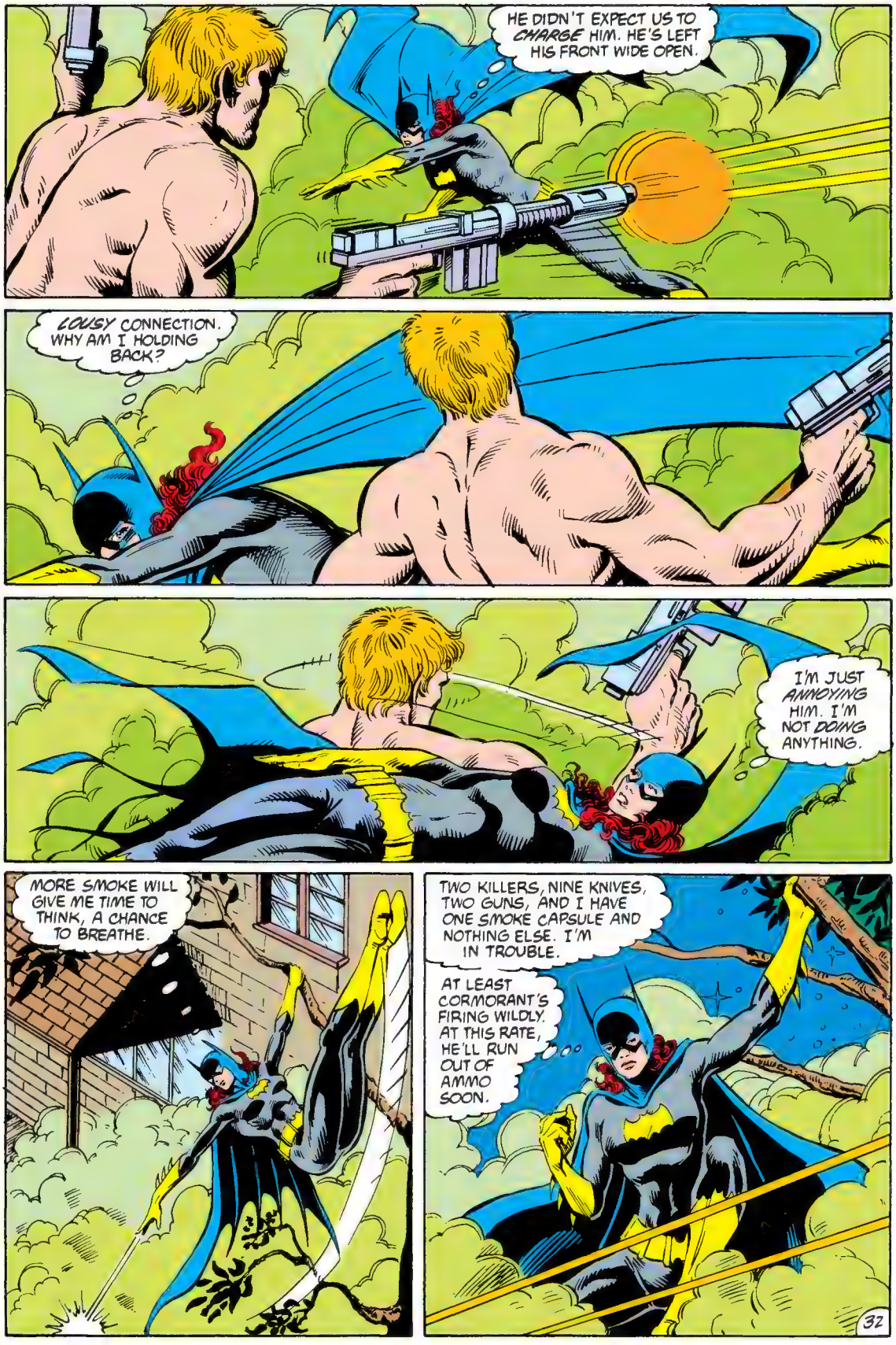

OPEN THE DOOR. I TRIED TO ESCAPE...
27

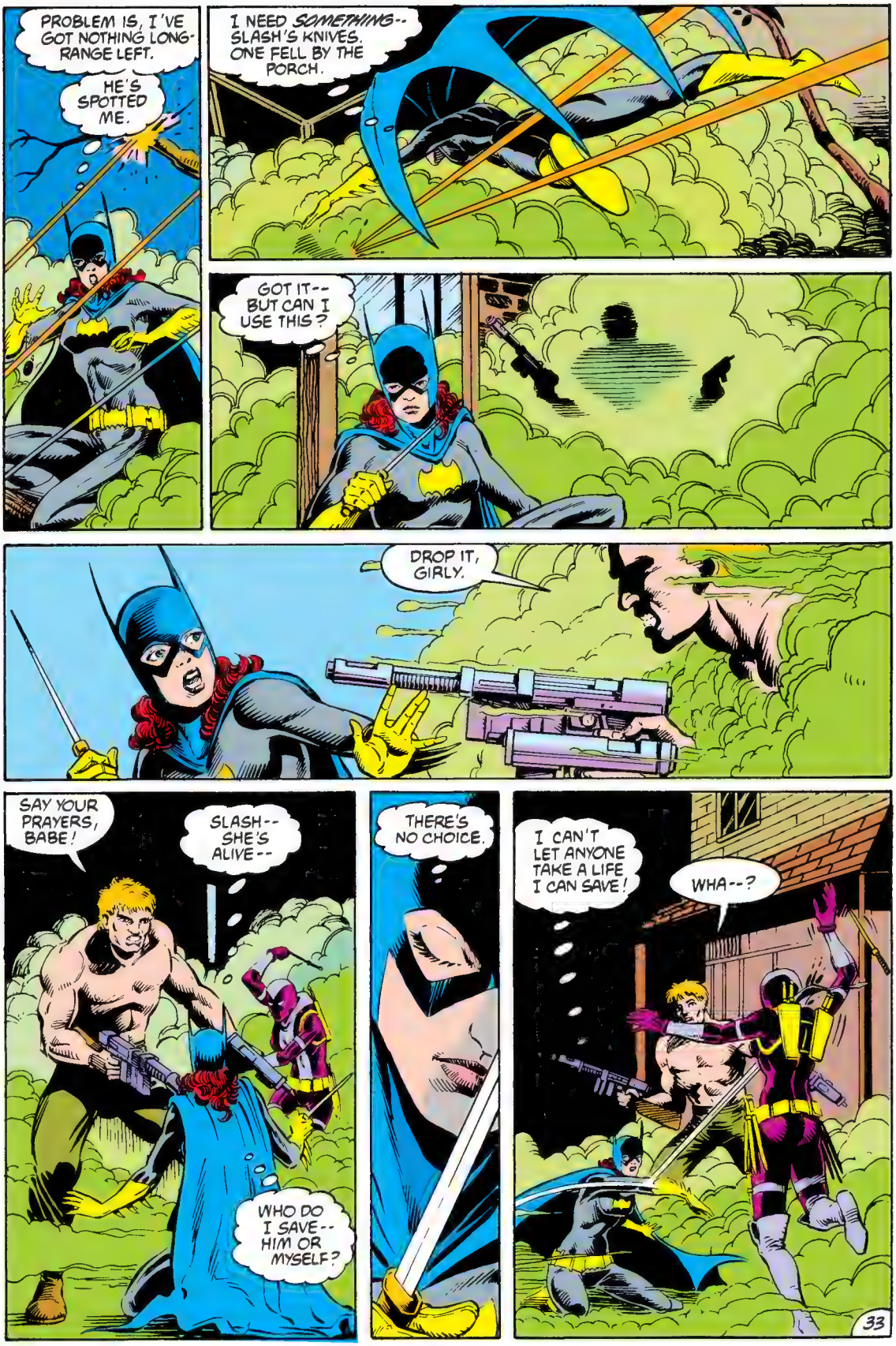
HERE'S WHERE I MANAGED TO GET MY SHOTGUN AWAY FROM YOU AND GET OFF A CLEAR SHOT.
I'VE REALLY BLOWN THIS. I'VE GOT ONE CHANCE, THOUGH. HE WON'T EXPECT--
AAAAARGH!
BLAM
SLASH!
CLICK
CORMORANT, YOU HAVE COMMITTED GRAVE CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. PREPARE TO DIE FOR THOSE CRIMES.
HOW'D SLASH KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?
I'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE, MAKE A PLAN. I CAN TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF 'EM, BUT I'VE GOTTA HAVE TIME TO THINK.
WHAT THE-- LOCKED?
WHO?
UNLOCK THE DAMN DOOR! YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU?
28


HERE'S MY CHANCE!
THAT DISARMS ONE, NOW TO GET THE OTHER.
I WARNED YOU BEFORE, BATGIRL-- DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
GOT TO GET CLEAR-- THESE TWO ARE NUTS!
DON'T TOUCH HIM.
GOT TO GET TO MY BACK UP STASH...
ZWIP
ROPE? YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITH ROPE?
LONG ENOUGH.
PIECE OF CAKE! THEY'RE TOO BUSY FEUDING TO NOTICE ME.
GOOD WEAPON--NOW I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE IT.
SHE'S FREE, CORMORANT'S ESCAPING--THIS IS LOOKING BAD.
MADE IT!
29


SEE?
WELL, THERE GOES MY BATARANG...
WHA?
BLAM BLAM BLAM
KRAK
BLAM
OKAY, GIRLS-- WE'RE PLAYING BY MY RULES NOW.
30

SMOKE.
THIS'LL BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO KEEP OUT OF THE CROSSFIRE. I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE--
--SO I JUST HAVE TO CIRCLE AROUND, GET INTO POSITION--
SCREAM A LITTLE, WILLYA?
GIVE ME SOMETHING TO AIM AT.
UNGGH!
I COULD JUST LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER, THEN STEP IN AND SORT OUT THE PIECES.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT BEING A HERO'S ALL ABOUT.
GET DOWN, SLASH. YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM WITH KNIVES.
31


HE DIDN'T EXPECT US TO CHARGE HIM. HE'S LEFT HIS FRONT WIDE OPEN.
LOUSY CONNECTION. WHY AM I HOLDING BACK?
I'M JUST ANNOYING HIM. I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.
MORE SMOKE WILL GIVE ME TIME TO THINK, A CHANCE TO BREATHE.
TWO KILLERS, NINE KNIVES, TWO GUNS, AND I HAVE ONE SMOKE CAPSULE AND NOTHING ELSE. I'M IN TROUBLE.
AT LEAST CORMORANT'S FIRING WILDLY. AT THIS RATE, HE'LL RUN OUT OF AMMO SOON.
32


PROBLEM IS, I'VE GOT NOTHING LONG-RANGE LEFT.
HE'S SPOTTED ME.
I NEED SOMETHING-- SLASH'S KNIVES. ONE FELL BY THE PORCH.
GOT IT-- BUT CAN I USE THIS?
DROP IT, GIRLY.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BABE!
SLASH-- SHE'S ALIVE--
WHO DO I SAVE-- HIM OR MYSELF?
THERE'S NO CHOICE.
I CAN'T LET ANYONE TAKE A LIFE I CAN SAVE!
WHA--?
33

HEY!
YOU KNIFED HER!
YOU SAVED ME!
JUST LIKE ALL WOMEN, EH? PRETEND TO HATE MEN, THEN DO ANYTHING TO SAVE US!
WELL, BABE, I APPRECIATE THE SAVE, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK! I'M STILL GONNA TAKE YOU OUT, BUT I WON'T NEED THIS--
--OR THIS!
NOW, BATGIRL--
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN.
NO.
34

FORGET IT!
WHOMP
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU SCARE ME ANYMORE!
YOU'RE A SICK, TWISTED MAN--
--AND YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN LOCKED UP LONG AGO!
I'M JUST SORRY I WAITED SO LONG!
BUT YOU'RE FINISHED NOW!
35

GOTTA GET MY WEAPON...
HERE...IT'S *HIS*. FINISH YOUR WORK.
SLASH--
GOING TO SHOOT ME, TOO?
IS THAT YOUR ONLY SOLUTION? *MORE* DEATH?
HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU...
...COULDN'T LET HIM...
Phew.
36

THE POLICE ARRIVED QUICKLY. I DON'T THINK THEY KNEW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF WHAT THEY FOUND--

--CORMORANT'S DEAD BODY--

--HIS WIFE, SMILING SWEETLY AT EVERYONE, BUT TOTALLY SILENT--

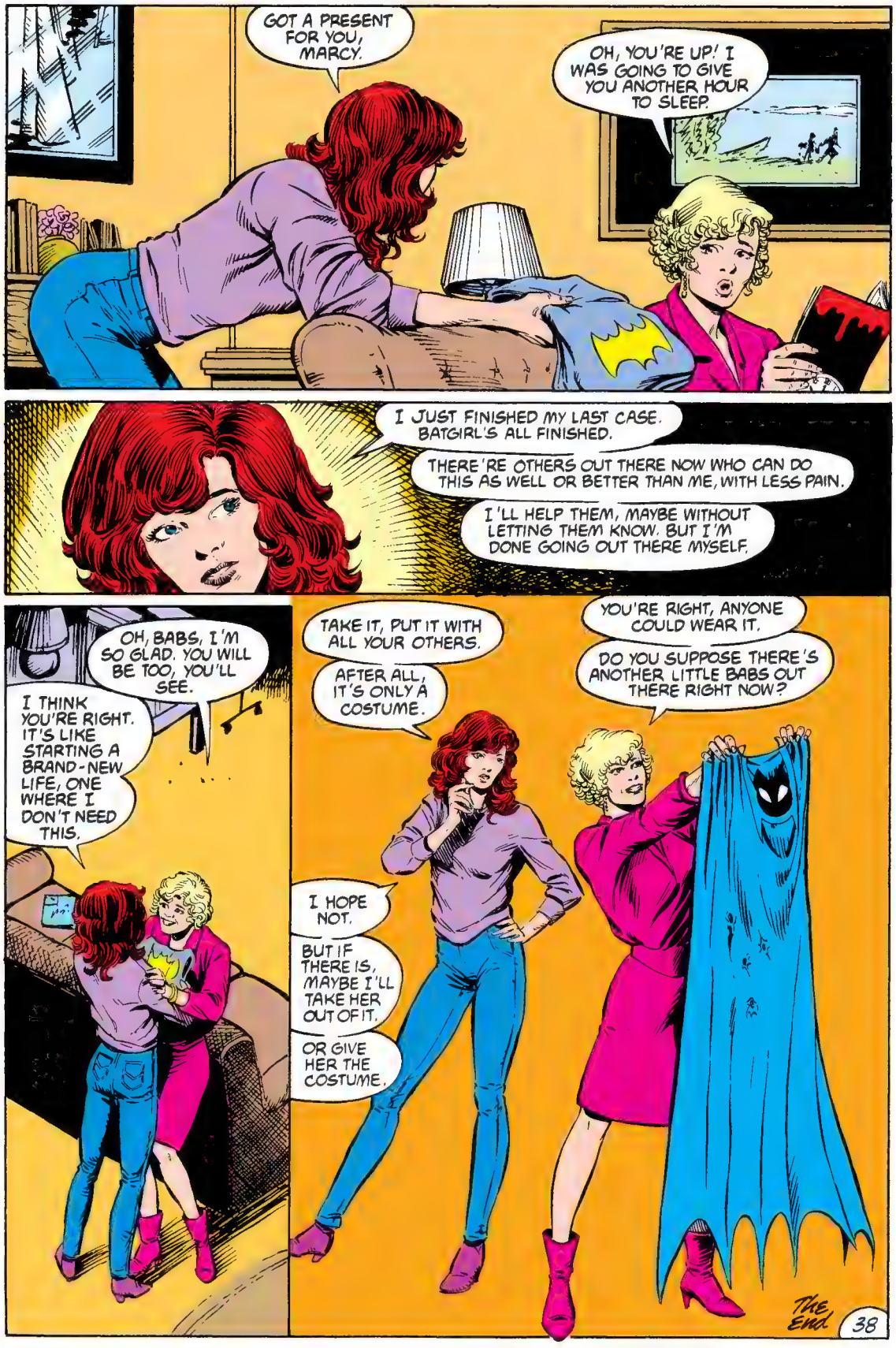
--SLASH, BADLY INJURED BUT EXPERTLY BANDAGED.

GOTHAM AMBULANCE SERVICES

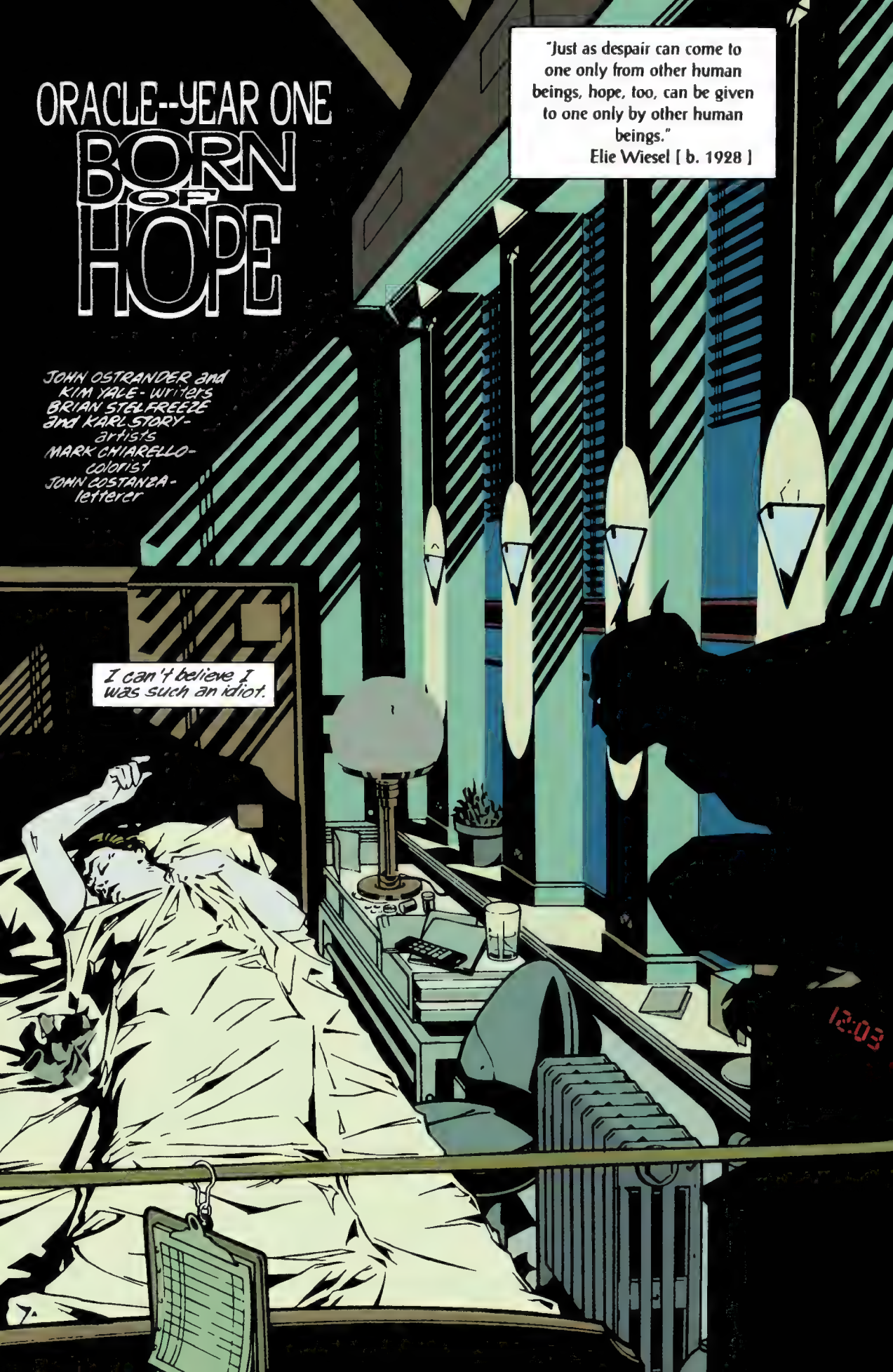
IT'S OVER. FINALLY.

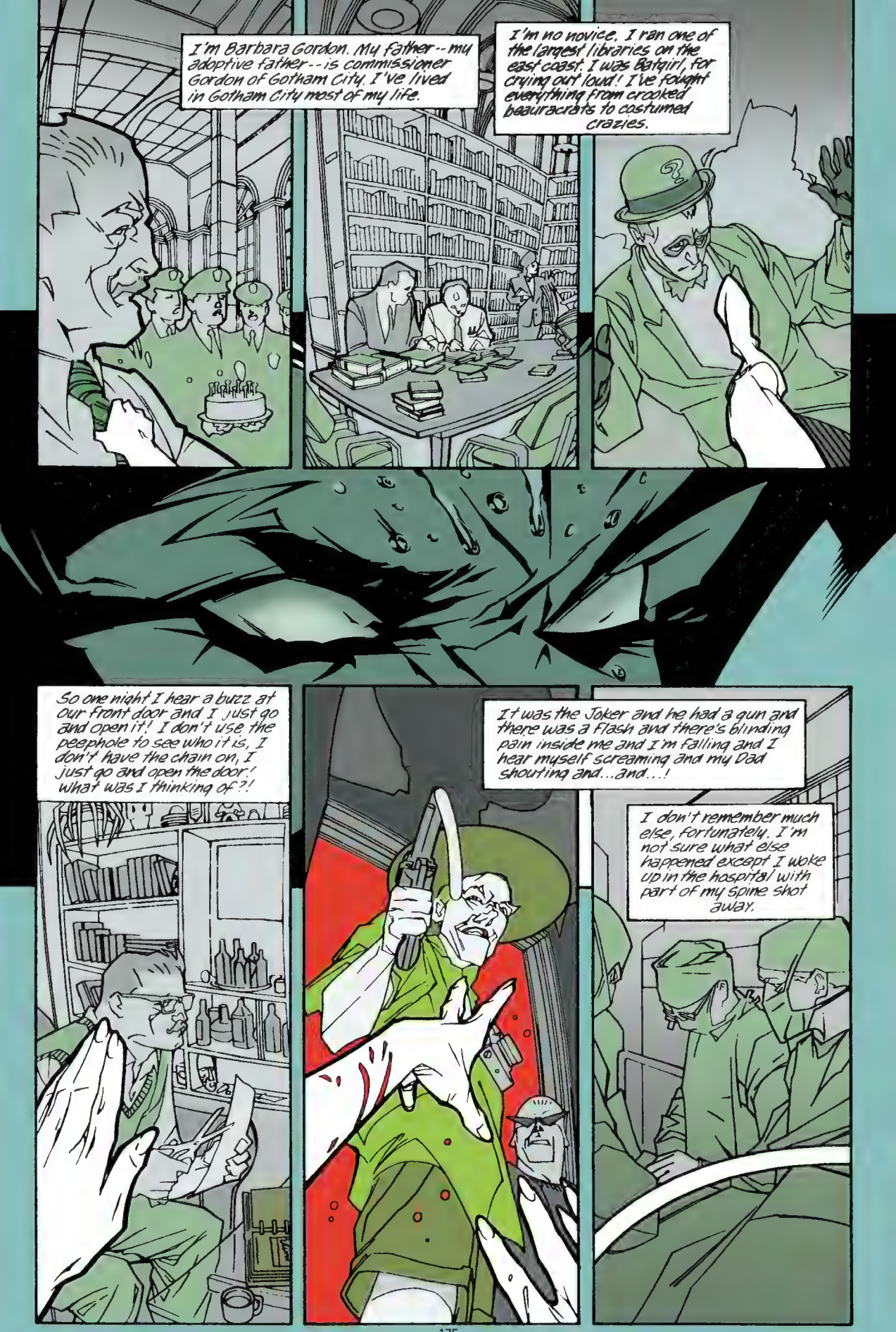
I HAVEN'T FELT SO GOOD IN YEARS.

37


GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU, MARCY.
OH, YOU'RE UP! I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER HOUR TO SLEEP.
I JUST FINISHED MY LAST CASE. BATGIRL'S ALL FINISHED.
THERE'RE OTHERS OUT THERE NOW WHO CAN DO THIS AS WELL OR BETTER THAN ME, WITH LESS PAIN.
I'LL HELP THEM, MAYBE WITHOUT LETTING THEM KNOW. BUT I'M DONE GOING OUT THERE MYSELF.
OH, BABS, I'M SO GLAD. YOU WILL BE TOO, YOU'LL SEE.
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S LIKE STARTING A BRAND-NEW LIFE, ONE WHERE I DON'T NEED THIS.
TAKE IT, PUT IT WITH ALL YOUR OTHERS.
AFTER ALL, IT'S ONLY A COSTUME.
YOU'RE RIGHT, ANYONE COULD WEAR IT.
DO YOU SUPPOSE THERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE BABS OUT THERE RIGHT NOW?
I HOPE NOT.
BUT IF THERE IS, MAYBE I'LL TAKE HER OUT OF IT.
OR GIVE HER THE COSTUME.
THE END
38

DC
NO. 5 SUMMER '96
THE
BATMAN
CHRONICLES
Chaykin & Edwards


ORACLE--YEAR ONE
BORN OF HOPE
JOHN OSTRANDER and KIM YALE - writers
BRIAN STELFREEZE and KARL STORY - artists
MARK CHIARELLO - colorist
JOHN COSTANZA - letterer
"Just as despair can come to one only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings."
Elie Wiesel [b. 1928]
I can't believe I was such an idiot.
12:03

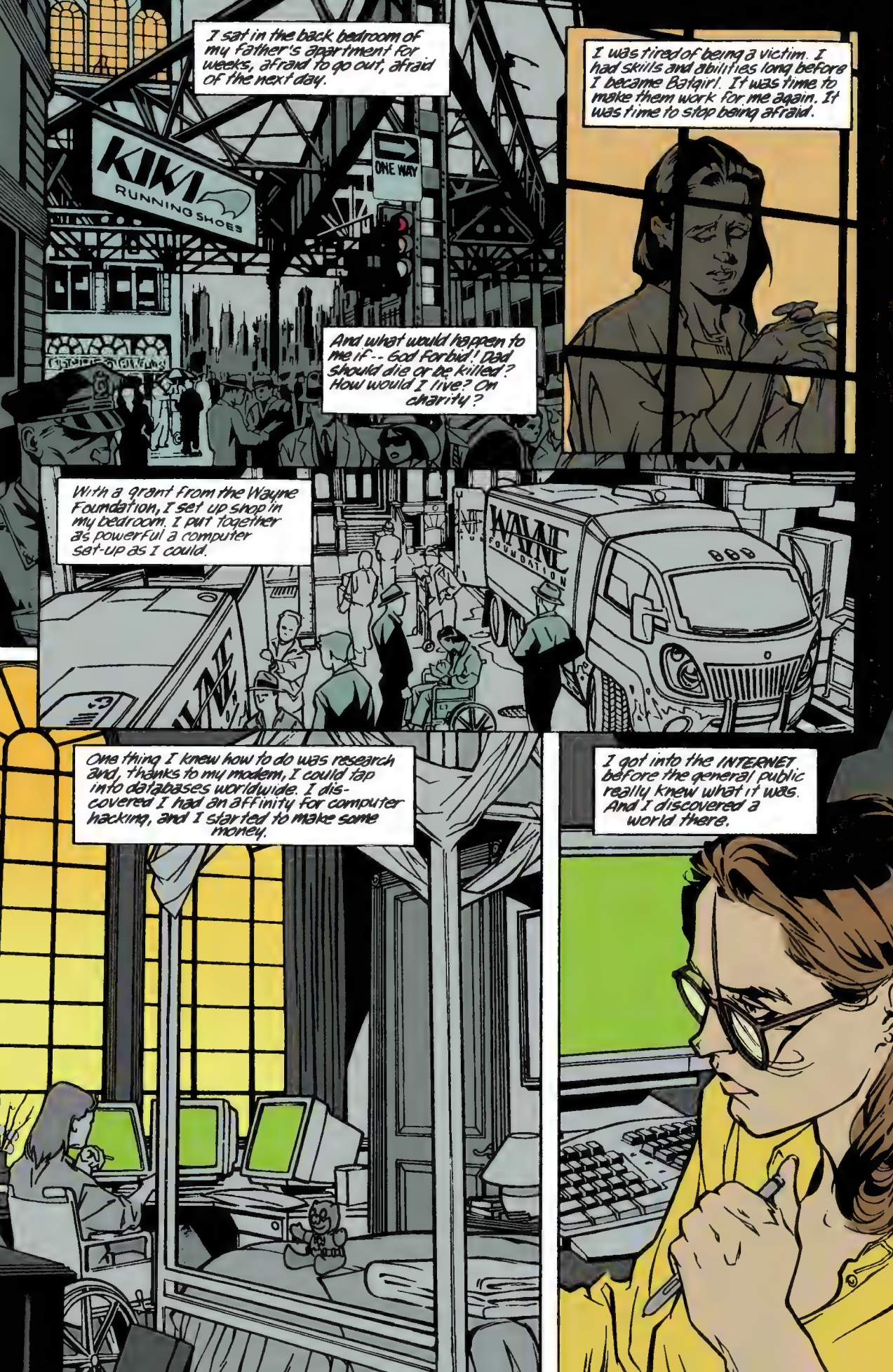

I'm Barbara Gordon. My father--my adoptive father--is commissioner Gordon of Gotham City. I've lived in Gotham City most of my life.
I'm no novice. I ran one of the largest libraries on the east coast. I was Batgirl, for crying out loud! I've fought everything from crooked beauracrats to costumed crazies.
So one night I hear a buzz at our front door and I just go and open it! I don't use the peephole to see who it is, I don't have the chain on, I just go and open the door! What was I thinking of?!
It was the Joker and he had a gun and there was a flash and there's blinding pain inside me and I'm falling and I hear myself screaming and my Dad shouting and...and...!
I don't remember much else, fortunately. I'm not sure what else happened except I woke up in the hospital with part of my spine shot away.

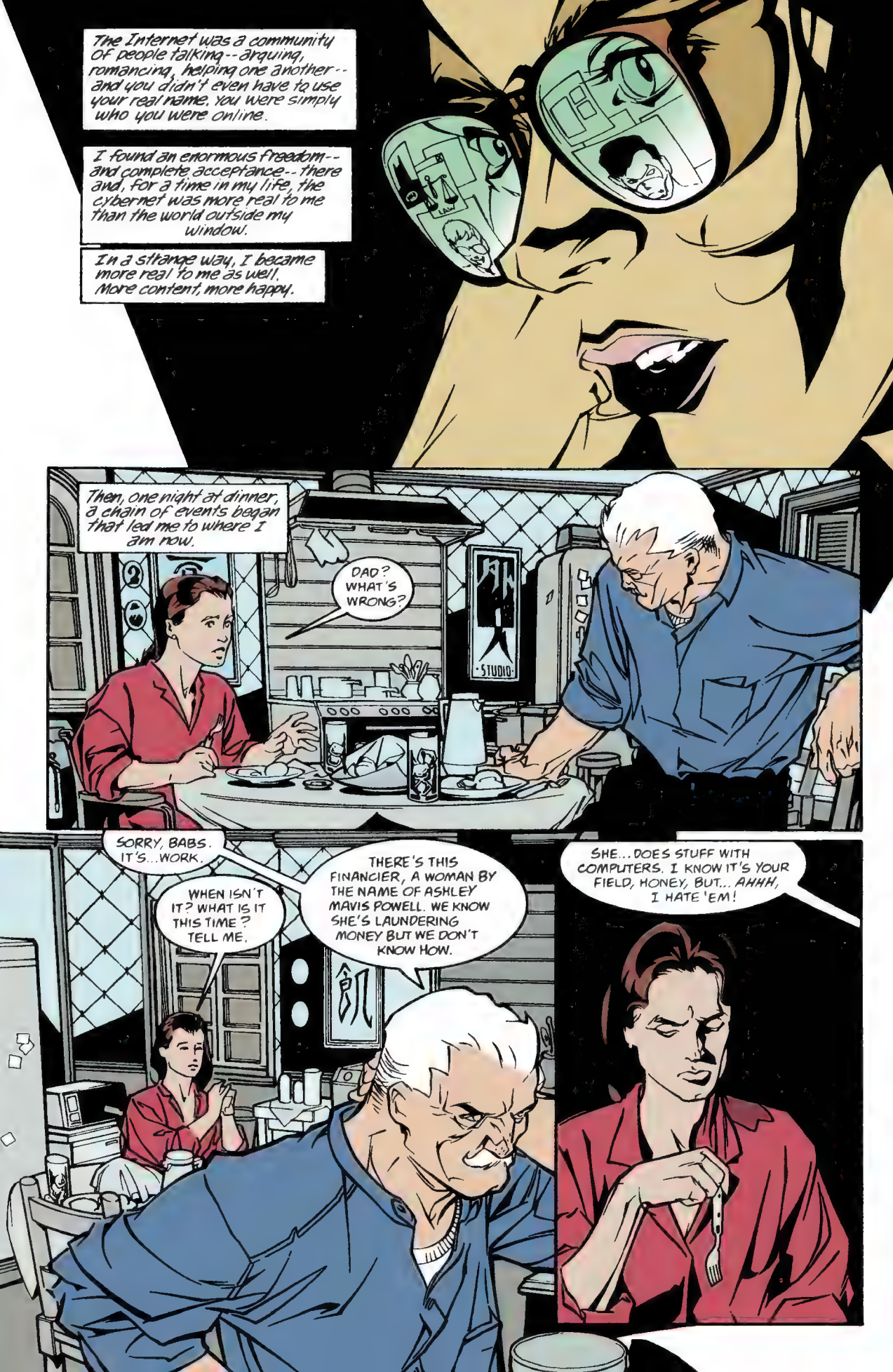
And I have these nightmares and sometimes, when I wake up, things aren't much better.
OH! BARBARA. DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU. I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE GOING HOME TOMORROW.
YES. THE DOCTORS TELL ME I WAS "LUCKY." THE JOKER WAS USING A DOCTORED BULLET. HALF THE GRAINS OF A NORMAL .45. HAD HE BEEN USING A REGULAR BULLET, I WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD BEFORE I HIT THE FLOOR.
AND HE DIDN'T WANT THAT. NO, HE WANTED ME ALIVE. NOT BECAUSE I HAVE ANY INTRINSIC WORTH OR MEANING TO HIM, OF COURSE.
NO. SHOOTING ME... KIDNAPPING MY DAD... IT WAS ALL JUST A WAY TO GET AT YOU.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW HUMILIATING, HOW DEMEANING, THAT IS?! MY LIFE HAS NO IMPORTANCE SAVE IN RELATION TO YOU! EVEN AS BATGIRL, I WAS PERCEIVED JUST AS SOME WEAKER VERSION OF YOU!
I CAUGHT HIM, BARBARA...
OH, YES, I HEARD ABOUT THAT. I HEARD HOW YOU TWO STOOD THERE, LAUGHING OVER SOME PRIVATE JOKE.
TELL ME--WAS IT ME?

Good. I hope I've hurt him.
It's nothing compared to the pain I've felt-- or will feel.
And so, ten weeks and three days after the Joker shot out my spine, I was sent home. The media were in full attendance.
PLEASE...NEITHER I NOR MY DAUGHTER HAS A STATEMENT TO MAKE AT THIS TIME! PLEASE, GIVE US A LITTLE PRIVACY...!
You know, when you're healthy, when you're whole, there're a million simple things you do every day that you take completely for granted.
Things that, for me, were no longer so simple.

Such as getting in a car.
I used to just jump in and jump out... like most people.
Now every move had to be planned... almost choreo-graphed.
BACK OFF!
In full view of everyone.

YOU DID THAT VERY WELL, HONEY. YOU OKAY?
NO. NO, DAD, I'M NOT.
THE PRESS WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BOTHERED IF I HADN'T BEEN YOUR DAUGHTER, DAD. I'M NOT ME, I'M A SYMBOL. WE'RE BIG ON SYMBOLS IN GOTHAM.
YOU REFUSED TO HAVE POLICE GUARDING OUR HOME. EVERY OTHER BIG CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER HAS THEM. BUT YOU WANTED TO SYMBOLIZE HOW OPEN YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS...
AND YOU GOT HURT BECAUSE OF IT. I'M SORRY, BABS...
I AM, TOO, DAD. I AM, TOO...
So began my six months in shadows. I went to both my physical and emotional therapists.
I had to accept I was never going to walk again--
--part of my spine was shot away and the spinal cord hopelessly damaged.
Worst of all was the fear I felt--of being physically helpless, unable to defend myself, of having no sense of self, of feeling that I meant nothing, that my life was now over.


I sat in the back bedroom of my father's apartment for weeks, afraid to go out, afraid of the next day.
KIKI RUNNING SHOES
ONE WAY
I was tired of being a victim. I had skills and abilities long before I became Batgirl. It was time to make them work for me again. It was time to stop being afraid.
And what would happen to me if -- God Forbid! Dad should die or be killed? How would I live? On charity?
With a grant from the Wayne Foundation, I set up shop in my bedroom. I put together as powerful a computer set-up as I could.
WAYNE FOUNDATION
One thing I knew how to do was research and, thanks to my modem, I could tap into databases worldwide. I discovered I had an affinity for computer hacking, and I started to make some money.
I got into the INTERNET before the general public really knew what it was. And I discovered a world there.


The Internet was a community of people talking--arguing, romancing, helping one another--and you didn't even have to use your real name. You were simply who you were online.
I found an enormous freedom--and complete acceptance--there and, for a time in my life, the cybernet was more real to me than the world outside my window.
In a strange way, I became more real to me as well. More content, more happy.
Then, one night at dinner, a chain of events began that led me to where I am now.
DAD? WHAT'S WRONG?
STUDIO
SORRY, BABS. IT'S...WORK.
WHEN ISN'T IT? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? TELL ME.
THERE'S THIS FINANCIER, A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF ASHLEY MAVIS POWELL. WE KNOW SHE'S LAUNDERING MONEY BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW.
SHE...DOES STUFF WITH COMPUTERS. I KNOW IT'S YOUR FIELD, HONEY, BUT... AHHH, I HATE 'EM!

Poor Dad. He was a Luddite when it came to computers. Still, I was intrigued and started to ask around the Internet what my friends might know about this Ashley Mavis Powell.
I got a quick reply from Sylvia Kandry, a police computer operator working out of NYC.
Girl, you're talking about a criminal we also know as Interface. And she is a nasty piece of work.
Interface actually has a low-level metahuman talent that lets her interact directly with computers. She alters files, re-routes things, makes discs crash-- always louses up the evidence so it's unusable
She's also a child abuser. We would love to get her in jail on any pretext, just to get her away from kids.
Be extra careful of her. She's very sick and very dangerous. End//SK
#1 DAD
Dad probably knew most of this already. I can understand why he didn't tell me. I hate people like that.
I decided to go after her via my computer. She was elusive but I was determined--
--and I had nothing else to do.
DAD
DAD
DAD

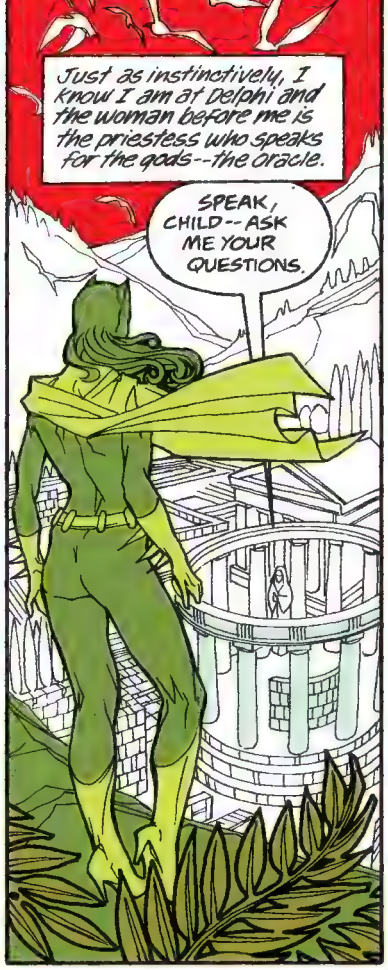
At Dad's insistence, I started going out more, making my way around the city. He was right, of course, but I didn't like it.
I was a gymnast at one time, I was a dancer. I loved how my body moved.
Now I just felt conspicuous and clumsy.
I used to walk everywhere and the traffic never bothered me. Now, I'd come to a busy corner and I'd feel myself start to panic.
TRYING TO GET ACROSS, hmmm?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I CAN DO IT MYSELF! I REALLY DON'T NEED ANY HELP!
I AM NOT OFFERING MAH HELP!
MAH NAME IS ASHLEY MAVIS POWELL AND IT HAS COME TO MAH ATTENTION THAT YOU ARE STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO MAH AFFAIRS, YOU LI'L CRIPPLE-- AND AH DON'T LIKE IT.

GO PLAY IN THE TRAFFIC, LI'L GIRL!
WH--
AHHHH!
SHREEEEECH!
ERNK!
Someone in the crowd helped me get back into my chair as Ms. Powell disappeared.
Ms. Powell had just made the biggest mistake of her life.
She made me feel like a helpless victim again--and had laughed doing it.

I need a resource... and not one from Batman or my Father. One I would find on my own.
I am confined to a wheelchair and need to find some form of self-defense. Anyone have any ideas? End//Babs
Babs-- I know someone who knows someone who may be able to help you. I've taken the liberty of setting the wheels in motion.
If interested, be in Robinson Park, just past the Centograph, a little after noon. Hope it works out. End/Matches
I TAKE IT YOU'RE BABS.
A FRIEND OF YOURS TOLD AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE ABOUT YOU.
DON'T LET THE APPEARANCE FOOL YOU. MY NAME'S RICHARD DRAGON AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU. MAYBE, FIRST -- TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU WANT.

I DON'T WANT TO BE AFRAID ANYMORE.
FEAR'S USEFUL, IN MODERATION. WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?
TO WALK AGAIN. CAN YOU FIX THAT?
NOPE. THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SEEKING.
I WANT MY LIFE BACK!
THAT'S WHO YOU WERE, NOT WHO YOU ARE. WHO ARE YOU?
I...I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER KNEW...
NOW YOU'RE READY TO BEGIN. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO DISCOVER.
AND THESE MAY HELP.
And so began the weeks, the months, in the park, learning from a street bum named Richard Dragon the Philippine art of stick fighting called escrima.
The physical and mental discipline honed questions of my identity. Strangely--or perhaps not so strangely--the answer came in the form of a dream.

In my dream, I am walking. I am dressed as Batgirl once more. I know, with a dreamer's certainty, that I am in classical Greece.

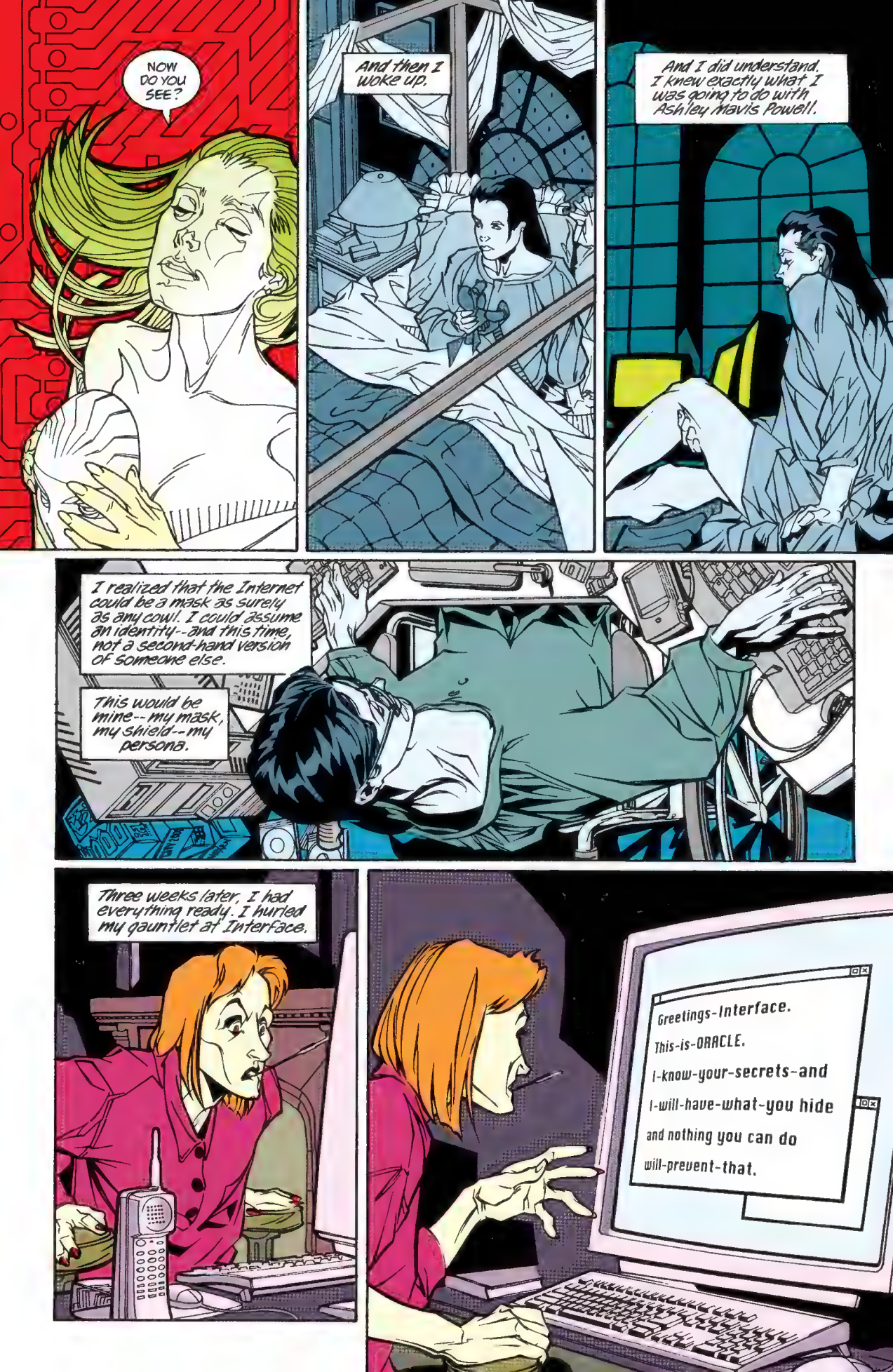

Just as instinctively, I know I am at Delphi and the woman before me is the priestess who speaks for the gods--the oracle.
SPEAK, CHILD--ASK ME YOUR QUESTIONS.

I'VE LOST SO MUCH. I'VE LOST EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I WAS. WHO AM I NOW? HOW DO I GO ON?

YOU HAVE LOST NOTHING THAT MATTERS. YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED. EVERYTHING BEFORE LEADS UP TO NOW AND NOW LEADS TO WHAT SHALL BE.

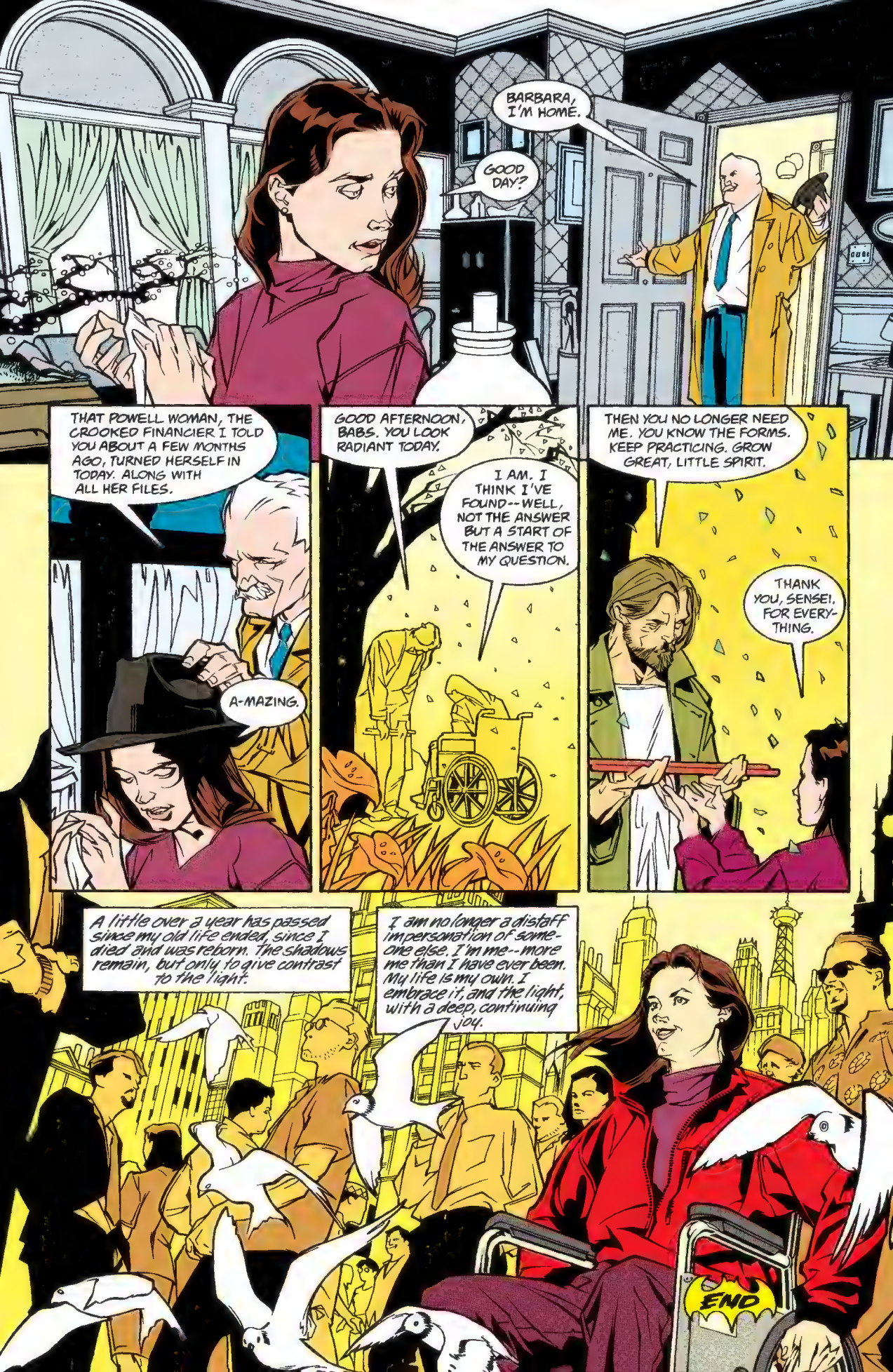
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
TAKE AWAY YOUR MASK AND I WILL TAKE AWAY MINE. THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

OH!

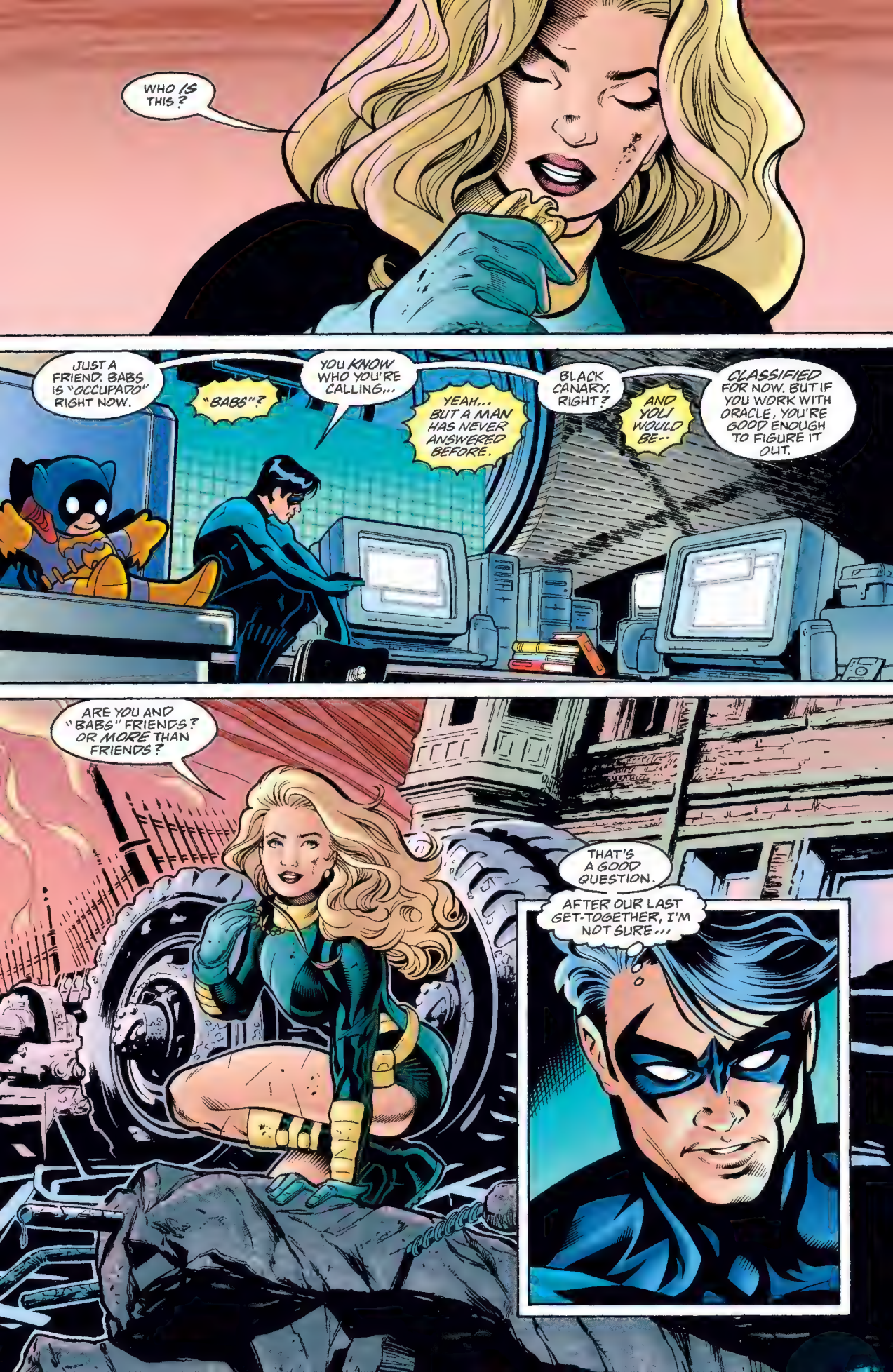

NOW DO YOU SEE?
And then I woke up.
And I did understand. I knew exactly what I was going to do with Ashley Mavis Powell.
I realized that the Internet could be a mask as surely as any cowl. I could assume an identity--and this time, not a second-hand version of someone else.
This would be mine--my mask, my shield--my persona.
Three weeks later, I had everything ready. I hurled my gauntlet at Interface.
Greetings-Interface.
This-is-ORACLE.
I-know-your-secrets-and
I-will-have-what-you hide
and nothing you can do
will-prevent-that.

OH, AH DON'T THINK SO. WHOEVER YOU ARE, I WILL TRACK YOU BACK, CRASH YOUR FILES, SHORT YOUR HARDWARE, AND COLLECT YOUR GUTS FOR GARTERS!
Contact! Now Powell was arcing from site to site on the Internet, her mind whipping around the world with the speed of thought, falling deeper and deeper into my trap.
I had gotten her attention and drawn in her mind. Now all I had to do was execute my pre-arranged program.
"Execute." How very appropriate.
Powell was psi-linked with the computer and now I had it caught in a logic trap--endlessly repeating the same circuit over and over again at the speed of thought, unable to break free...

...until I cut her loose.
RINGGG! RINGGG!
WH-WHO IS THIS?
I activated the voice scrambler. All Powell would hear was a husky, metallic baritone.
YOU-KNOW-WHO-THIS-IS. THIS-IS-ORACLE.
WHAT-I-HAVE-JUST-DONE-TO-YOU-I-CAN-DO-AGAIN--ANYTIME. I'VE-SET-A-POST-HYPNOTIC-SUGGESTION--IN-YOUR-MIND.
I-CAN-TRIGGER-THE-LOGIC-TRAP-ANY-TIME-I-CHOOSE-AND-I-WILL--
--UNLESS-YOU-DO-EXACTLY-AS-YOU'RE-TOLD.


BARBARA, I'M HOME.
GOOD DAY?
THAT POWELL WOMAN, THE CROOKED FINANCIER I TOLD YOU ABOUT A FEW MONTHS AGO, TURNED HERSELF IN TODAY. ALONG WITH ALL HER FILES.
A-MAZING.
GOOD AFTERNOON, BABS. YOU LOOK RADIANT TODAY.
I AM. I THINK I'VE FOUND--WELL, NOT THE ANSWER BUT A START OF THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.
THEN YOU NO LONGER NEED ME. YOU KNOW THE FORMS. KEEP PRACTICING. GROW GREAT, LITTLE SPIRIT.
THANK YOU, SENSEI. FOR EVERY-THING.
A little over a year has passed since my old life ended, since I died and was reborn. The shadows remain, but only to give contrast to the light.
I am no longer a distaff impersonation of some-one else. I'm me--more me than I have ever been. My life is my own. I embrace it, and the light, with a deep, continuing joy.
END

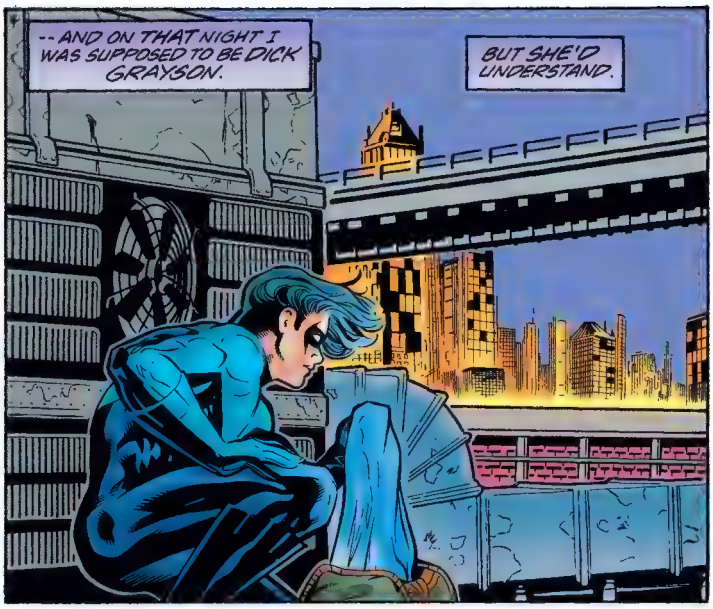
DC
NIGHTWING
IGNITES THE
BIRDS of PREY
8
AUG 99
DIXON
LAND
GERACI
LAND


WHO IS THIS?
JUST A FRIEND. BABS IS "OCCUPADO" RIGHT NOW.
"BABS"?
YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE CALLING...
YEAH... BUT A MAN HAS NEVER ANSWERED BEFORE.
BLACK CANARY, RIGHT?
AND YOU WOULD BE--
CLASSIFIED FOR NOW. BUT IF YOU WORK WITH ORACLE, YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT OUT.
ARE YOU AND "BABS" FRIENDS? OR MORE THAN FRIENDS?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
AFTER OUR LAST GET-TOGETHER, I'M NOT SURE...

ON WINGS
CHUCK DIXON - Writer
GREG LAND - Penciller
DREW GERACI - Inker
GLORIA VASQUEZ - Colorist
ALBERT T. DE GUZMAN - Letterer
DIGITAL CHAMELEON - Separator
JOSEPH ILLIDGE - Associate Editor
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL - Editor
IT WAS DURING THE EXODUS FROM GOTHAM CITY. TRAFFIC IN BLÜDHAVEN WAS HOPELESS.
SO I WAS TAKING THE JUMPLINE EXPRESS.
SOUTH

MY TOWN HAD BECOME LIKE ONE OF THOSE SICK EXPERIMENTS.
THE ONE WHERE THEY PUT TOO MANY RATS IN A HABITAT.
THEN THEY WATCH THEM FIGHT TO SURVIVE.
EXCEPT THE SUBJECTS IN THIS CASE WERE TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES.
EDISON NORTH
GOTHAM NORTH 31 Miles
INTERSTATE 23
CLOSED
SHERMAN BLVD.
66
GOTHAMITES AND HAVENOIDS.
I WASN'T LAYING ODDS ON THE OUTCOME.

BUT THAT WAS A NIGHTWING PROBLEM--

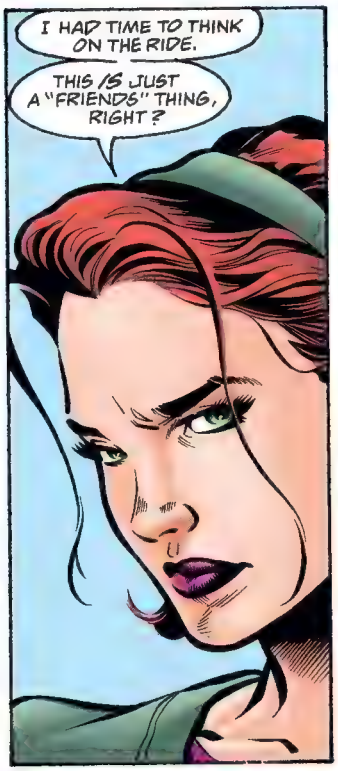

--AND ON THAT NIGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DICK GRAYSON.
BUT SHE'D UNDERSTAND.

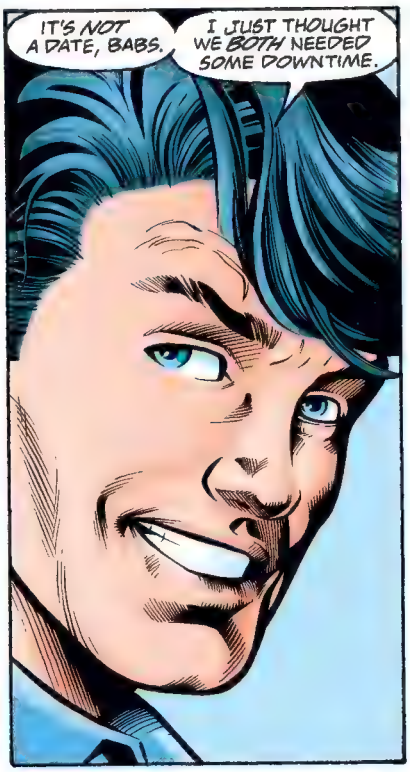
SHE KNOWS BOTH OF US.
I ONLY HOPED SHE MADE IT DOWN THERE.

GOTHAM TO BLÜDHAVEN WAS NOT A FUN COMMUTE THEN.

AM I LATE?
I JUST GAVE MYSELF SOME EXTRA TIME GETTING HERE.
DID YOU ORDER?

JUST THE COFFEE. AND IT'S AWFUL.
YOU COME HERE OFTEN, GRAYSON?
THEY HAVE ROOF ACCESS, BABS.
OH.


I HAD TIME TO THINK ON THE RIDE.
THIS IS JUST A "FRIENDS" THING, RIGHT?


IT'S NOT A DATE, BABS.
I JUST THOUGHT WE BOTH NEEDED SOME DOWNTIME.

SO WHERE ARE WE OFF TO? WHAT'S BLÜDHAVEN HAVE TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF NIGHTLIFE?
YOU'LL SEE.

LOOK OUT!
HE'S GOT A BOMB!
I NEEDED THIS.
BABS NEEDED THIS.

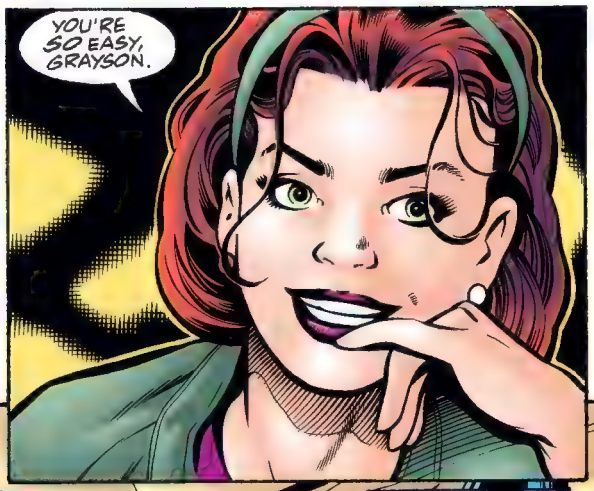
A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS.
NOTHING LIKE THE SMELL OF SAWDUST AND CARAMEL CORN TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.
THINGS LIKE A CITY IN RUINS AND CHAOS.
THE MAD BOMBER IS LOOSE ONCE MORE UNDER THE BIG TOP!
GRAB YOUR CHILDREN AND PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES!
WHEN THIS BABY BLOWS IT'S GONNA BE BIG!
POLICE
uh?
sputt! sputt!
POP!

THE HALY BROTHERS CIRCUS CAME INTO BLÜDHAVEN JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME.

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE BARBARA LAUGH.

WHAT A MESS, GRAYSON!
WE WERE USING COOKED PASTA IN THE BOMB.
BUT WE GOT SLAPPED WITH A LAWSUIT IN METROPOLIS. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

SO, WHAT D'YOU THINK OF MY CIRCUS, BABS?
VERY CORNY, GRAYSON.
VERY, VERY CORNY.



I'M SO OVER THA--

OO.

TIGERS.

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE HER LAUGH.

EVEN IF IT WAS AT ME.

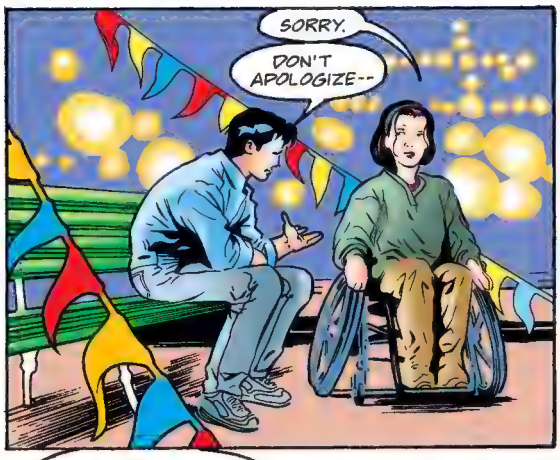
HALY BROS. CIRCUS

THAT'S THE THANKS I GET? I TREAT YOU TO THE CIRCUS AND YOU BREAK MY STONES?
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BEING SO "SENSITIVE."
"LET'S TIPTOE AROUND BABS." "DON'T UPSET BABS."
FUNHOUSE
O'Shaunessy's
BESIDES, WHAT'S WITH THIS "TREAT ME TO THE CIRCUS" LINE?
YOU OWN THIS OPERATION, RIGHT?
HEY, I'M GIVING UP AN ADMISSION HERE!
SPONSORED BY Zesti
DRINK Zesti Cola AT Billy Burger
LOOKS LIKE YOU MAKE UP FOR IT WITH ADVERTISING.
IS THERE A SQUARE INCH OF THIS PLACE WITHOUT A PRODUCT LABEL ON IT?
RUNNING A BIG TOP CIRCUS ISN'T EXACTLY A CASH COW, BABS.
DICK!
DICK GRAYSON!

CHECKING UP ON ME, SON?
JUST ENJOYING THE SMELL OF THE SAWDUST WITH THE OTHER RUBES, MR. HALY.
"MISTER HALY"! LISTEN TO HIM!
BIG DOUG
CORN D
POPCORN
3 THROWS FOR 5¢
3 THROWS
LIKE HE DOESN'T OWN THE WHOLE PLACE.
HARRY HALY OF THE HALY BROTHERS TRAVELING CIRCUS.
BARBARA GORDON.
CHARMED.
uh... HOW'S THE SHOW RUNNING, HAR'?
PLAYED TO HALF HOUSES AFTER IVYTOWN.
JUMBALINA'S HAD THE RUNS SINCE KEYSTONE CITY.
SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
JUMBALINA'S A FULL-GROWN INDIAN ELEPHANT.
EVEN MORE SORRY.
THAT'S SHOW BIZ, OR SO THEY TELL ME.
HAVE FUN, KIDS.
NICE MEETING YOU, HARRY.
DOING GREAT WORK, HARRY!

HALY BROS. CIRCUS
HALY BROS. CIRCUS
DOES IT HURT TO COME BACK HERE?
MEANING?
THIS IS WHERE YOUR PARENTS DIED-- UNDER THAT SAME TENT.
OH.
Mr. HERCULES
PRESENTED by
Zesti Cola
MAYBE IT SHOULD. I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE I'M AT PEACE WITH MY DEMONS, TOO.
THEIR KILLER MET WITH THE ULTIMATE JUSTICE. I KEEP THE CIRCUS ALIVE IN THEIR MEMORY.
I GUESS THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE.
BETWEEN YOU AND ME?
AND BRUCE...

"EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT 'CLOSURE' NOW.
"WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES THEY SAY YOU NEED 'CLOSURE'
"WHAT A CROCK. I WANTED REVENGE. SWEAR YOU WON'T TELL ANYBODY... PART OF ME STILL DOES.
"I REMEMBER THAT NIGHT EVERY TIME I ANSWER THE DOOR.
"AND I THINK ABOUT WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM ME."


SORRY.
DON'T APOLOGIZE--

IT'S GOOD TO TALK.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF TALKING.
BUT NOT OF HURTING.
I'VE MOVED ON. THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING.

Y'KNOW, A LOT OF THE TIME IT'S LIKE YOU BATGUYS WANT ME TO HOLD ON TO THE PAST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET OVER IT. UNDERSTAND-- I HAVE.
I HAVE A NEW LIFE NOW, ONE I LIKE--ONE THAT FULFILLS ME. IT'S NOT THE SAME ONE I HAD BEFORE, BUT IT'S GOOD. MAYBE EVEN BETTER.

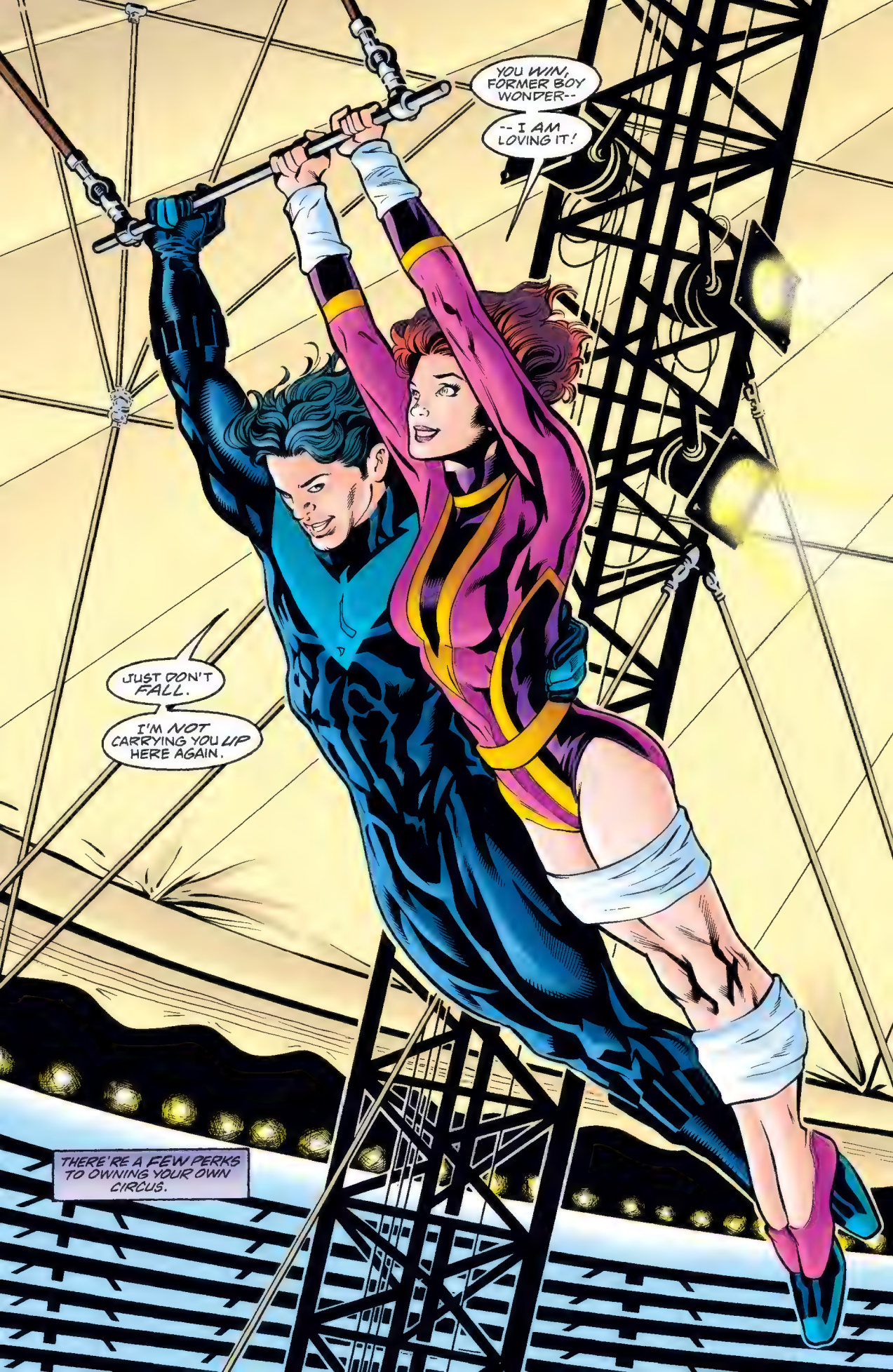
WHAT DO YOU MISS THE MOST?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD A WORD I SAID?
EVERY ONE OF THEM. AND I RESPECT THEM.

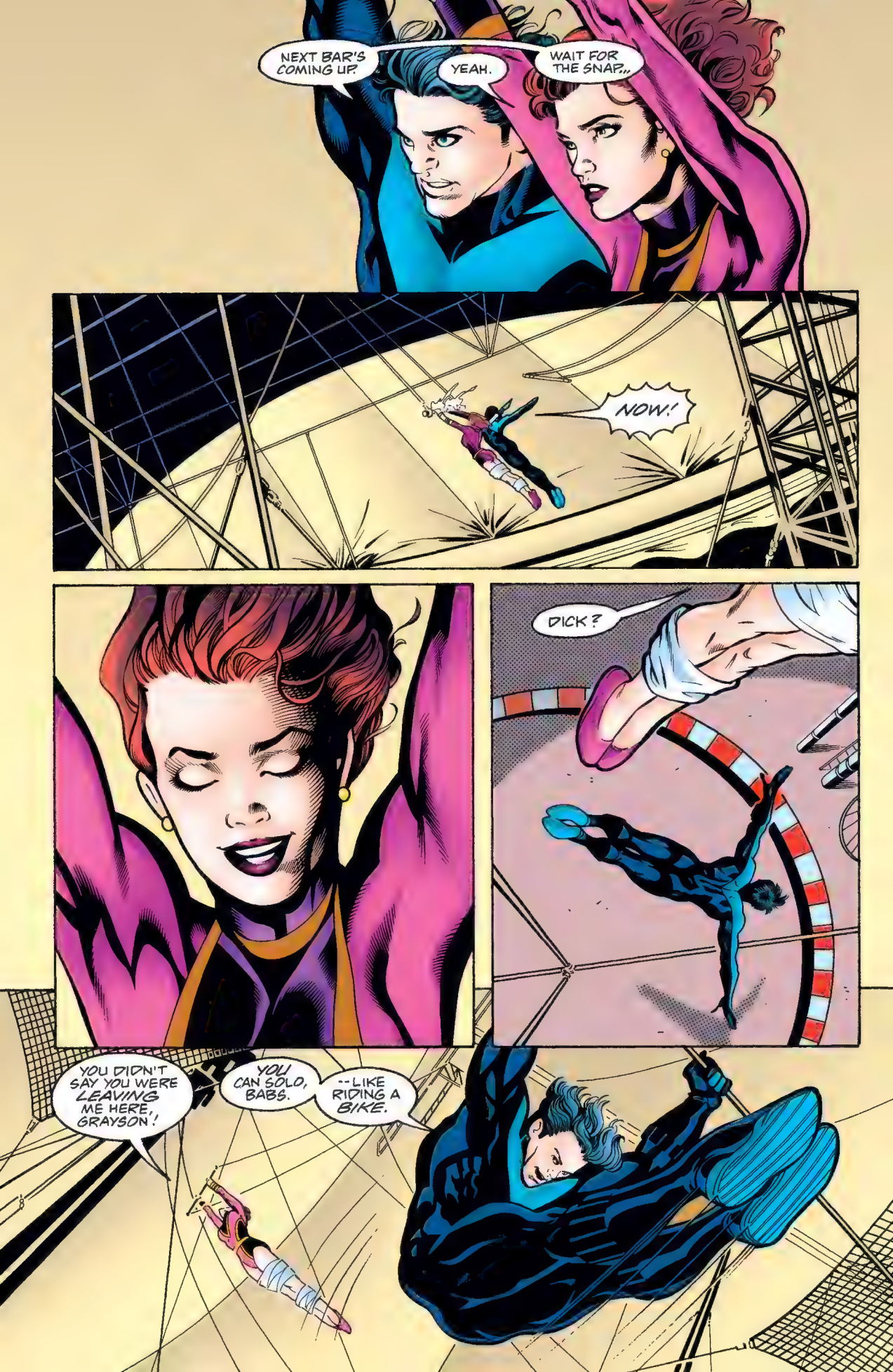
BUT THE WOMAN I'M TALKING TO ISN'T BATGIRL OR ORACLE. IT'S BARBARA GORDON. AND I HAVE A QUESTION FOR BARBARA.
WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T DO NOW THAT YOU WISH YOU COULD?

YOU KNOW THAT MOMENT-- YOU'RE ON A LEDGE WITH THE JUMPLINE IN YOUR HAND?
YOU FEEL THE WIND.
YOU HEAR THE TRAFFIC WAY BELOW.

THEN YOU'RE OFF INTO SPACE.
AND FOR A FEW SECONDS-- BEFORE THE LINE LOSES SLACK AND YOUR SWING BEGINS--

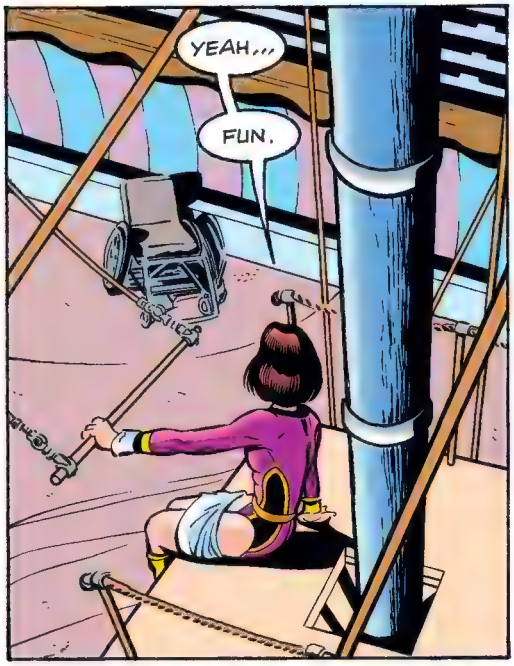
--YOU'RE ON WINGS.
YOU MISS THAT THE MOST?
AND HANDING A SERIOUS BUTT-WHACKING TO A GUY TWICE MY SIZE.
I'M JUST SURPRISED IT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT... PHYSICAL.
I WAS NEVER THE NATURAL ATHLETE YOU ARE, BUT I WORKED AT IT.
IT'S SOMETHING I THINK ABOUT NOW AND THEN.
COME ON.
WHAT?
YOU'VE GOT THE UPPER BODY STRENGTH.
HECK, YOU'RE PROBABLY STRONGER THAN YOU WERE BEFORE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GRAYSON?
FLYING.


YOU WIN, FORMER BOY WONDER--
-- I AM LOVING IT!
JUST DON'T FALL.
I'M NOT CARRYING YOU UP HERE AGAIN.
THERE'RE A FEW PERKS TO OWNING YOUR OWN CIRCUS.


NEXT BAR'S COMING UP.
YEAH.
WAIT FOR THE SNAP...
NOW!
DICK?
YOU DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE LEAVING ME HERE, GRAYSON!
YOU CAN SOLO, BABS.
--LIKE RIDING A BIKE.

IT'S NOT THE SAME THING.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SCARE ME...

I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE.
WE'RE OUT HERE. I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE FUN.

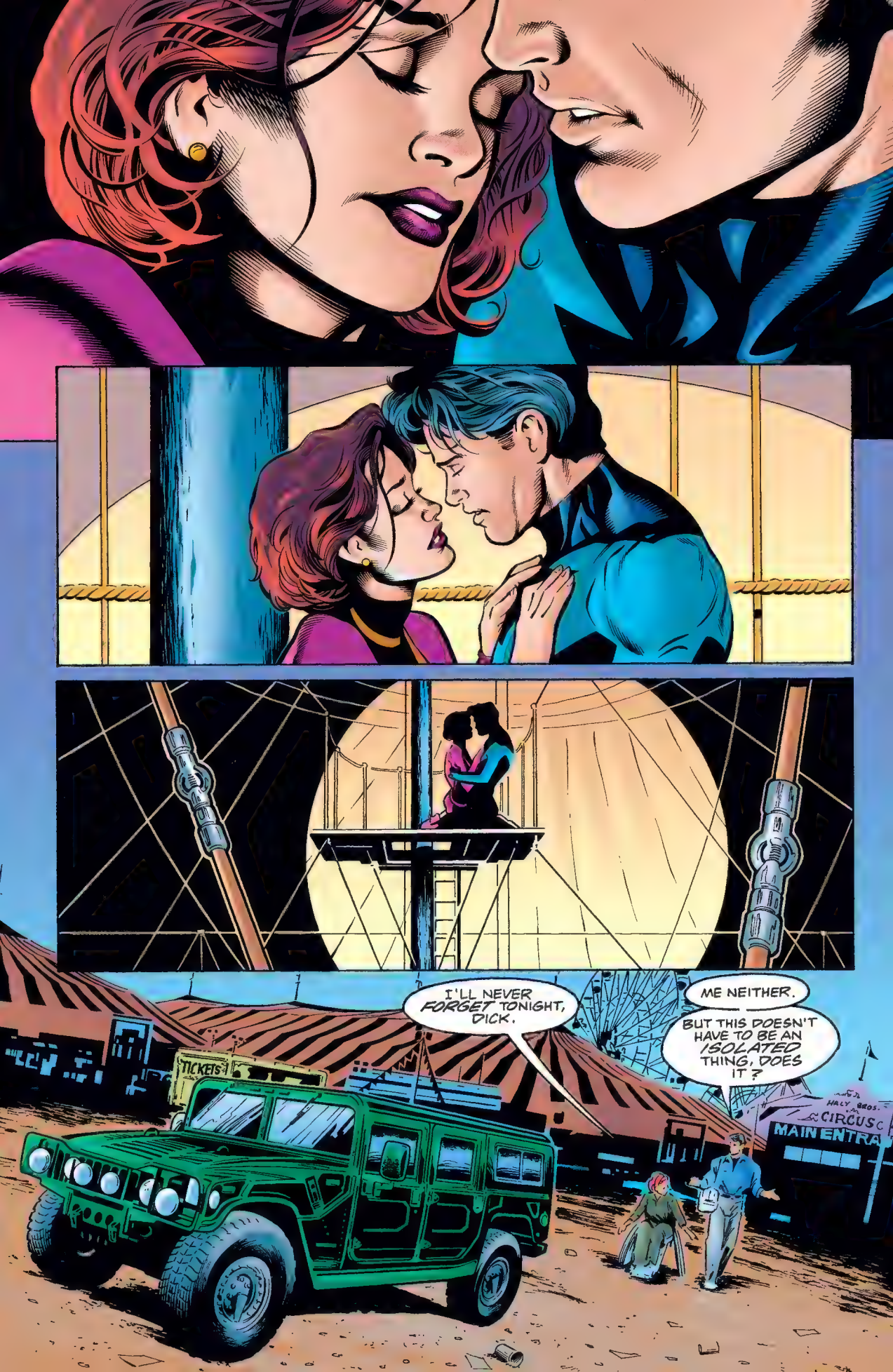

YEAH...
FUN.

A SIMPLE FLYING TRANSFER.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
KINDERGARTEN STUFF.

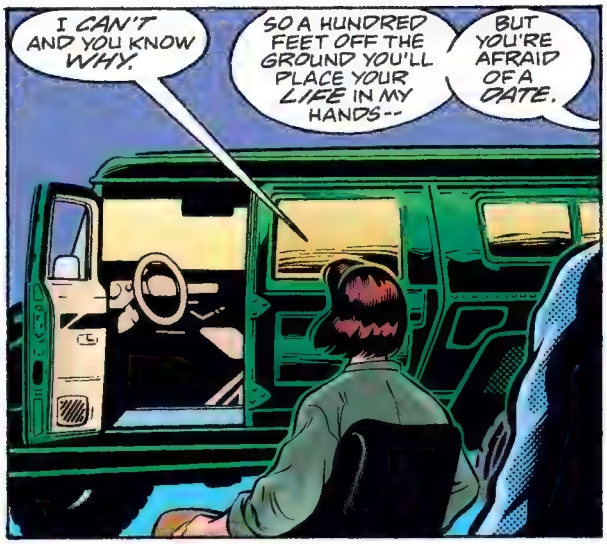
OKAY, THE JOKE'S GONE FAR ENOUGH.
I BROKE YOUR STONES. NOW YOU'VE BROKE MINE.
WE'RE EVEN, GRAYSON.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, BABS.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL GET ME DOWN?
THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
AND YOURSELF.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH, GRAYSON.

YEAH!
YOU STILL HAVE IT, BABS.
I DO, DON'T I?

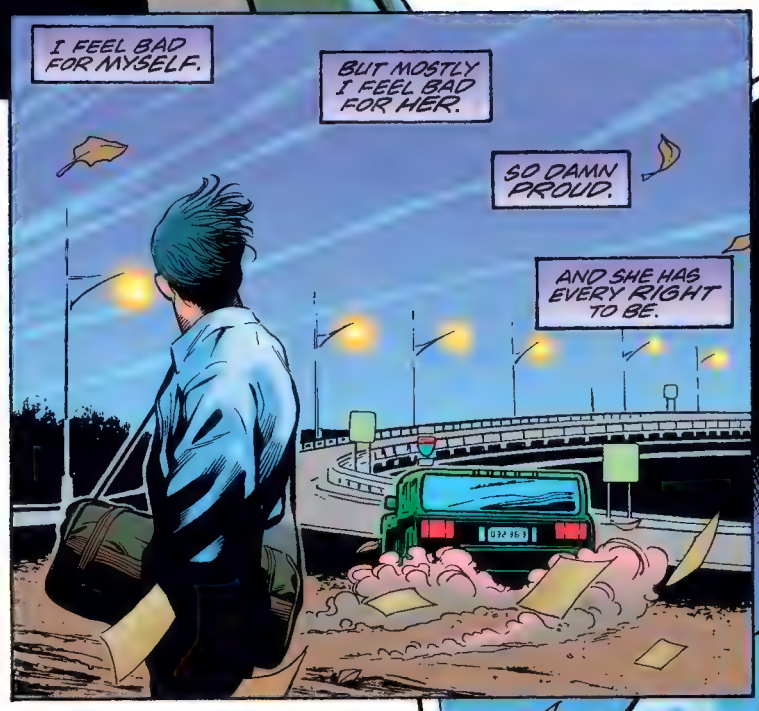

I'LL NEVER FORGET TONIGHT, DICK.
ME NEITHER.
BUT THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AN ISOLATED THING, DOES IT?
TICKETS
HALY BROS.
CIRCUS
MAIN ENTRA

I DON'T FOLLOW.
YES YOU DO.
I'D LIKE US TO KEEP SEEING ONE ANOTHER.

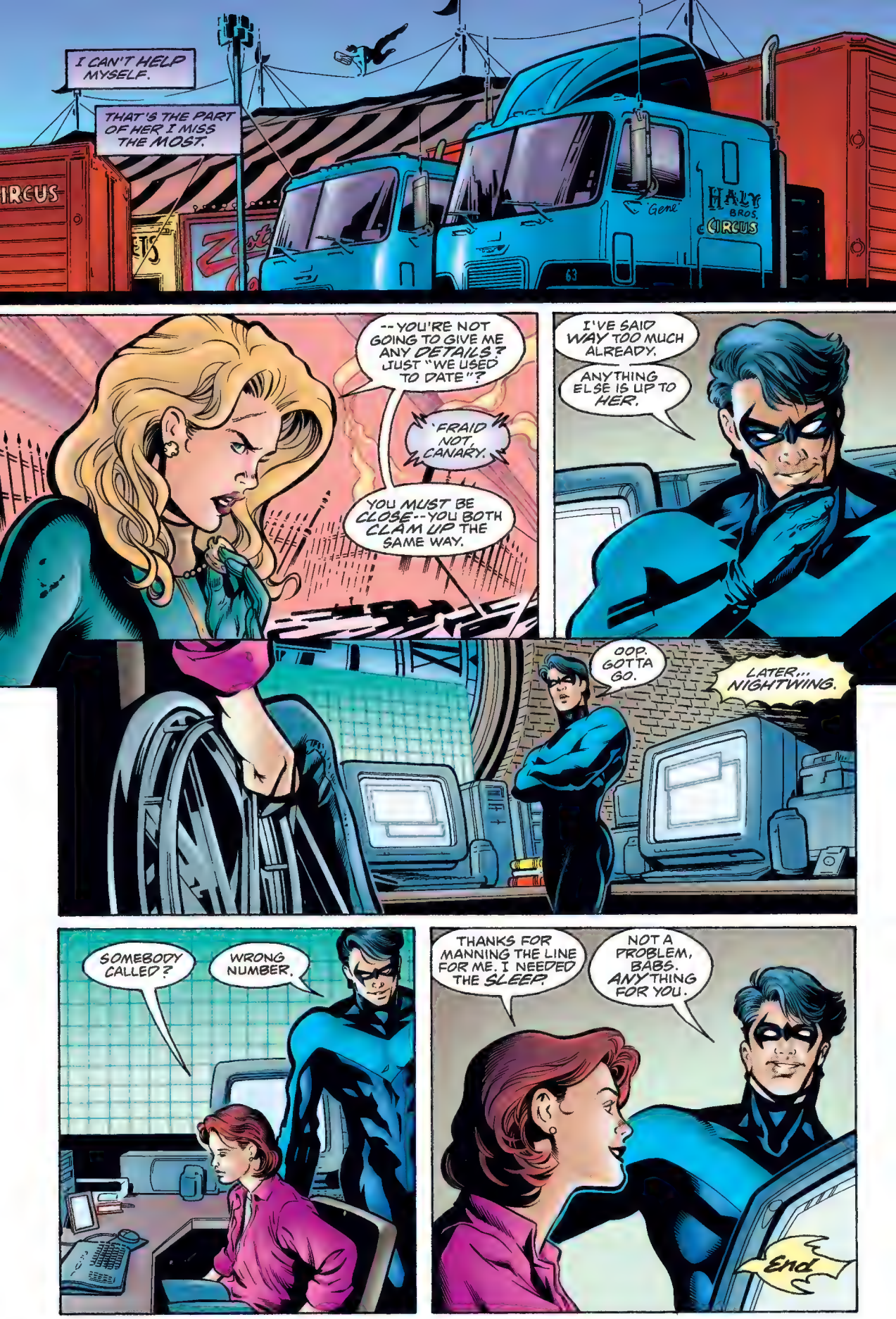

I CAN'T AND YOU KNOW WHY.
SO A HUNDRED FEET OFF THE GROUND YOU'LL PLACE YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS--
BUT YOU'RE AFRAID OF A DATE.

IT'S MORE THAN A "DATE" WITH US. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
YOU KNOW WHY I DON'T HAVE HANDLES ON MY CHAIR, GRAYSON?

I DON'T LIKE TO BE PUSHED.
BABS...
THANKS AGAIN FOR TONIGHT.


I FEEL BAD FOR MYSELF.
BUT MOSTLY I FEEL BAD FOR HER.
SO DAMN PROUD.
AND SHE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE.

SHE'S COME THROUGH SO MUCH.
BUT THERE'S A PART OF HER HEART SHE KEEPS LOCKED UP.


I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
THAT'S THE PART OF HER I MISS THE MOST.
HALEY BROS. CIRCUS
--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE ME ANY DETAILS? JUST "WE USED TO DATE"?
'FRAID NOT, CANARY.
YOU MUST BE CLOSE--YOU BOTH CLAM UP THE SAME WAY.
I'VE SAID WAY TOO MUCH ALREADY.
ANYTHING ELSE IS UP TO HER.
OOP. GOTTA GO.
LATER... NIGHTWING.
SOMEBODY CALLED?
WRONG NUMBER.
THANKS FOR MANNING THE LINE FOR ME. I NEEDED THE SLEEP.
NOT A PROBLEM, BABS. ANYTHING FOR YOU.
End

DC
MM/AL '03
BATGIRL
A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS

BATGIRL

A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

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BATGIRL: A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS

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Case art by Carmine Infantino & Murphy Anderson

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PART I • 1967-1999
A MILLION DOLLAR DEBUT

We are here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Batgirl, one of Gotham City's most enduring crime-fighters. Since her debut in 1967, Batgirl has become a true multimedia star. She is one of the few female superheroes to make the leap from comic books to newspaper strips, a feature film and multiple TV series, both live action and animated.

Let us pause for a moment, though, to acknowledge her lesser-known prototype. That would be Bat-Girl (with a hyphen), who made her debut in BATMAN #139 in 1961. She was teenager Betty Kane, the niece of wealthy heiress Kathy Kane, who was secretly Batwoman. Betty was such a big fan of her aunt that she made her own costume and set out to fight crime.

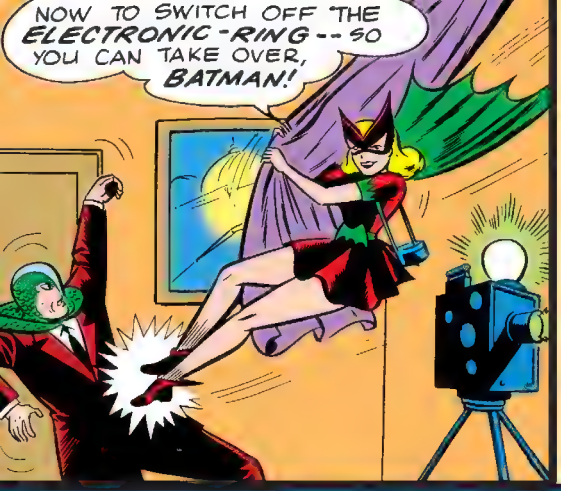
On missions, Bat-Girl carried ingenious items such as a "crime compact" and a "trick lipstick" that shot out wire tendrils to ensnare her villainous adversaries. Most of her adventures, though, seemed to involve romantic entanglements with Robin the Boy Wonder.

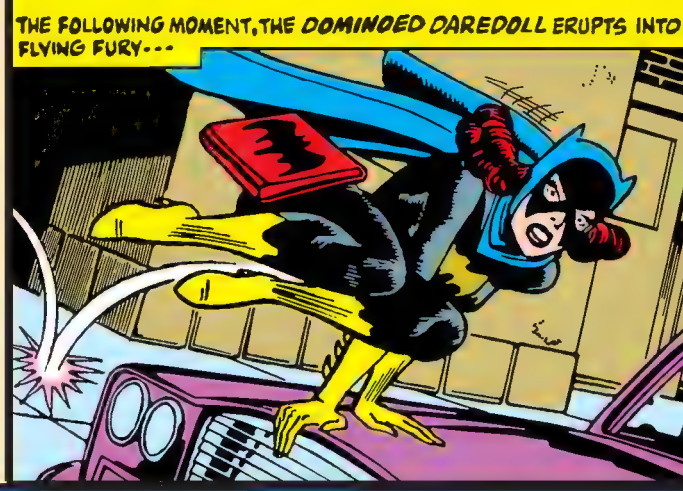
Only two years after her debut, Bat-Girl made her final regular appearance in 1963. No explanation was offered for her early retirement.

When the live-action *Batman* TV show premiered on January 12, 1966, it became an instant blockbuster hit and started airing two new episodes every week. Two years later, when the ratings started to slip, the show's producers asked DC Comics to create a new Batgirl so she could also be added to the series. Enter Barbara Gordon, the daughter of Police Commissioner James Gordon. She arrived in DETECTIVE COMICS #359 in 1967 wearing a stylish costume drawn by Carmine Infantino. The TV Batgirl, portrayed by actress Yvonne Craig, lasted only a few months, but her counterpart in the comics would be around for decades.

In the comics, Barbara Gordon was the head librarian at the Gotham City Public Library, and she was highly trained in both judo and karate. "The whole world thinks I'm just a plain Jane—a colorless female 'brain'!" she lamented. But that all changed when she slipped on a Batgirl costume to attend the Million Dollar Masquerade Ball. Just a few pages later, she was battling the villainous Killer Moth and launching her new career as a costumed crusader.

Although she was known by such fanciful nicknames as the Bat-Beauty and the Dominoed Daredoll, the new Batgirl quickly became a valuable ally to Batman, Robin and the Justice League of America.



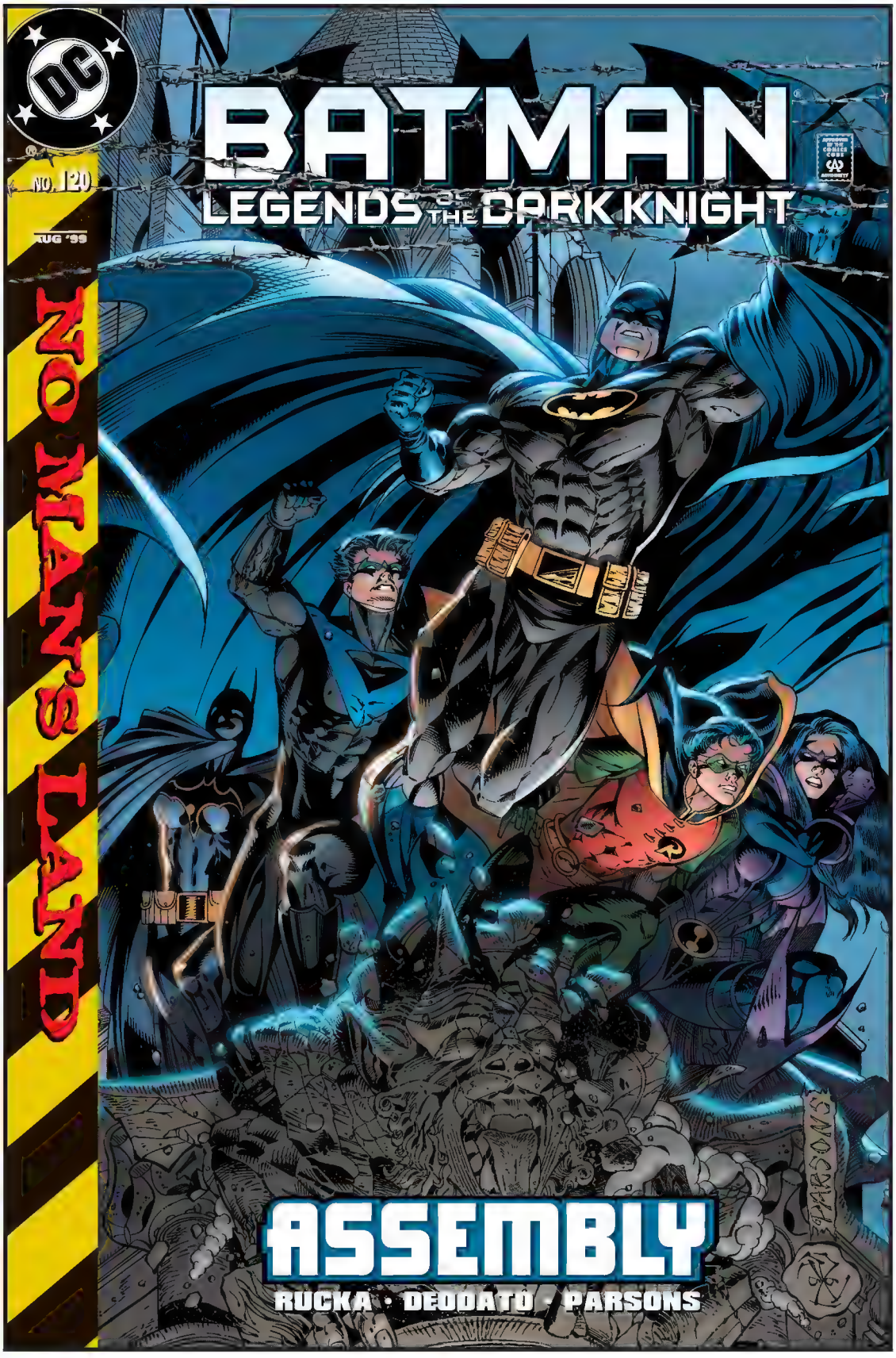


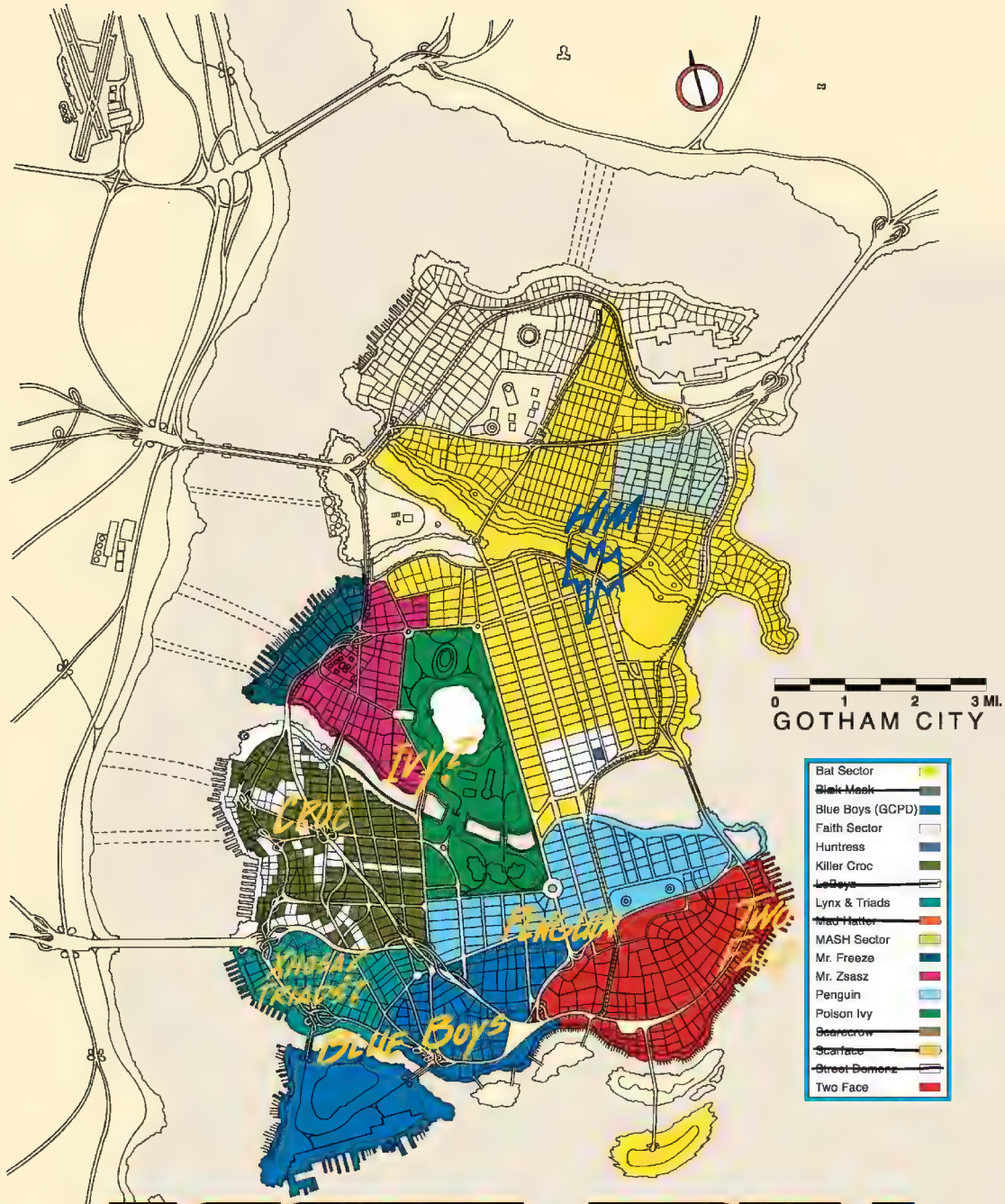
The pioneering 1989 graphic novel BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE startled readers with a shocking plot twist when the Joker brutally gunned down Barbara Gordon and severed her spinal cord. Confined to a wheelchair, she refused to give up her fight against crime. She turned her computer skills into her greatest asset and reemerged as the hero Oracle, becoming the digital eyes and ears of the Suicide Squad. Later, she would aid Batman and his allies.

Oracle was ready for a new challenge when she teamed up with Black Canary to form the crime-fighting team known as the Birds of Prey. Black Canary operated as a field agent, wearing an earring and necklace that served as communication devices with Oracle.

While Oracle continued to fight crime in the comics, Batgirl returned to TV screens in 1993 when she made her first appearance on *Batman: The Animated Series*. She was once again Barbara Gordon, fighting to exonerate her father after he was arrested on charges of corruption. The animated Batgirl soon arrived in the BATMAN ADVENTURES comic book. And in 1997, Alicia Silverstone donned the Batgirl costume for the feature film *Batman & Robin*.

All in all, it was an impressive 30-year run for a former librarian.


DC
BATMAN
LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT
NO. 120
AUG '99
NO MAN'S LAND
ASSEMBLY
RUCKA · DEODATO · PARSONS

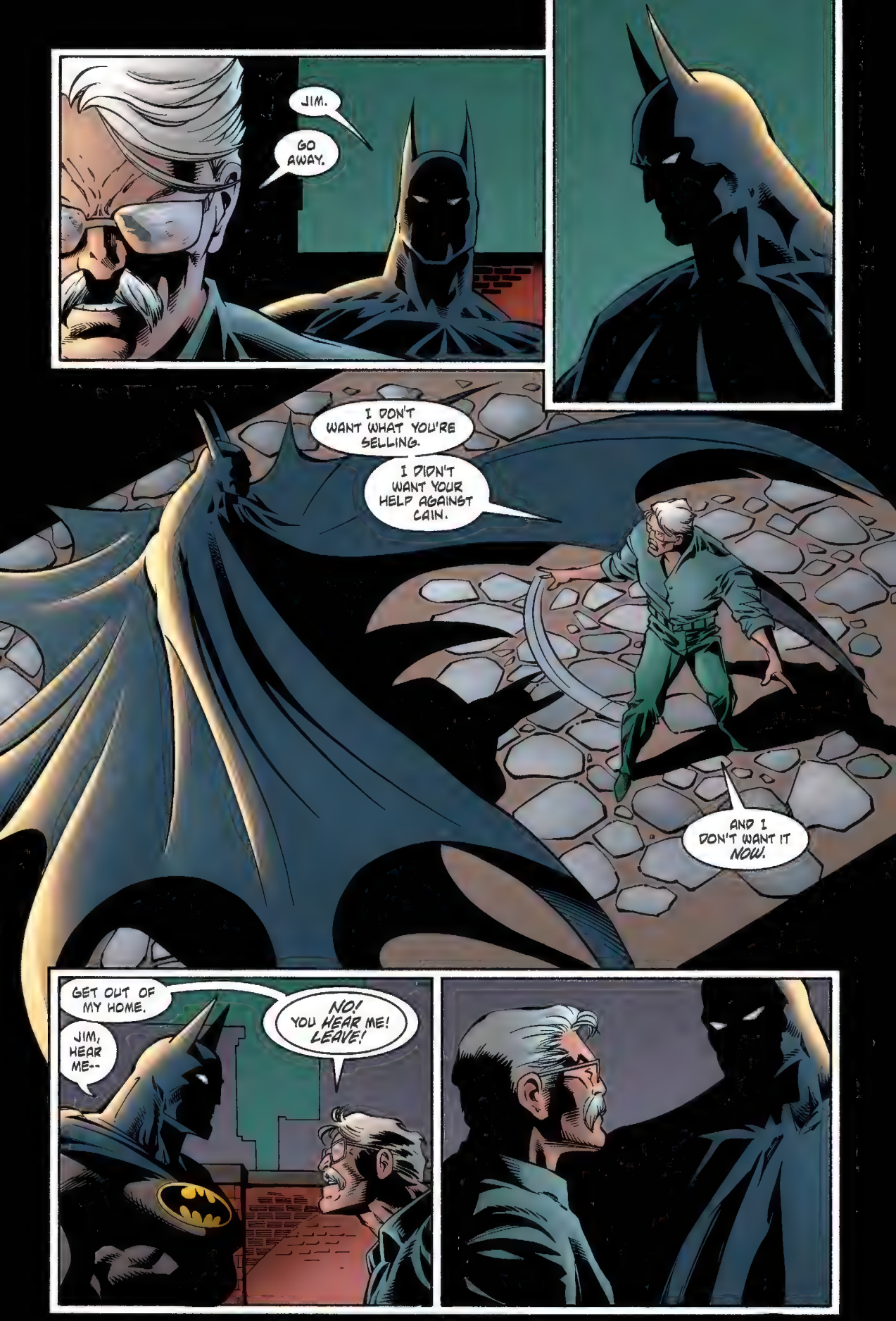


ASSEMBLY

greg **RUCKA** writer
mike **DEODATO** penciller
sean **PARSONS** inker
pam **RAMBO** colorist
WILDSTORM FX color separator
willie **SCHUBERT** letterer
joseph **ILLIDGE** associate editor
jordan b. **GORFINKEL** editor
dennis **O'NEIL** group editor
Batman created by **BOB KANE**

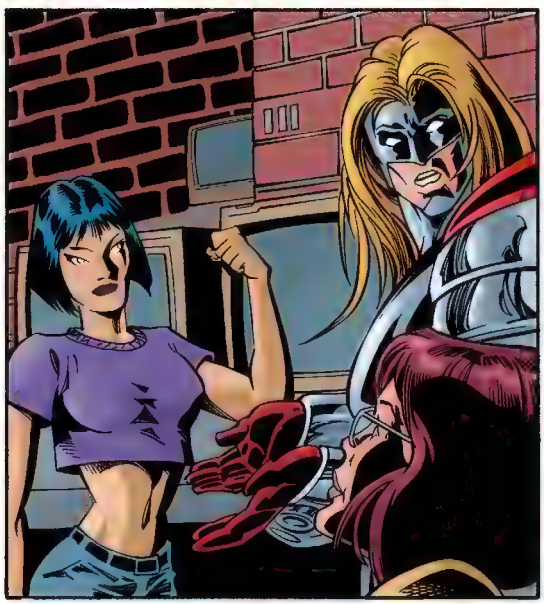
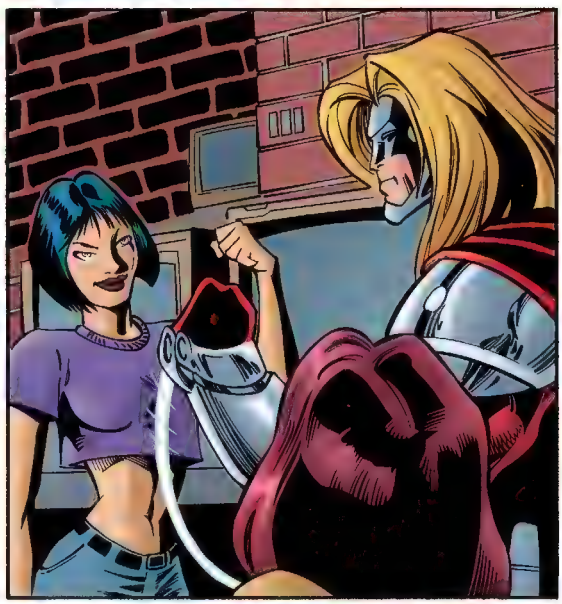
...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

JIM?
HON?
HMM?
YOU COMING TO BED?
IN A MINUTE.
KLIK


JIM.
GO AWAY.
I DON'T WANT WHAT YOU'RE SELLING.
I DIDN'T WANT YOUR HELP AGAINST CAIN.
AND I DON'T WANT IT NOW.
GET OUT OF MY HOME.
JIM, HEAR ME--
NO! YOU HEAR ME! LEAVE!

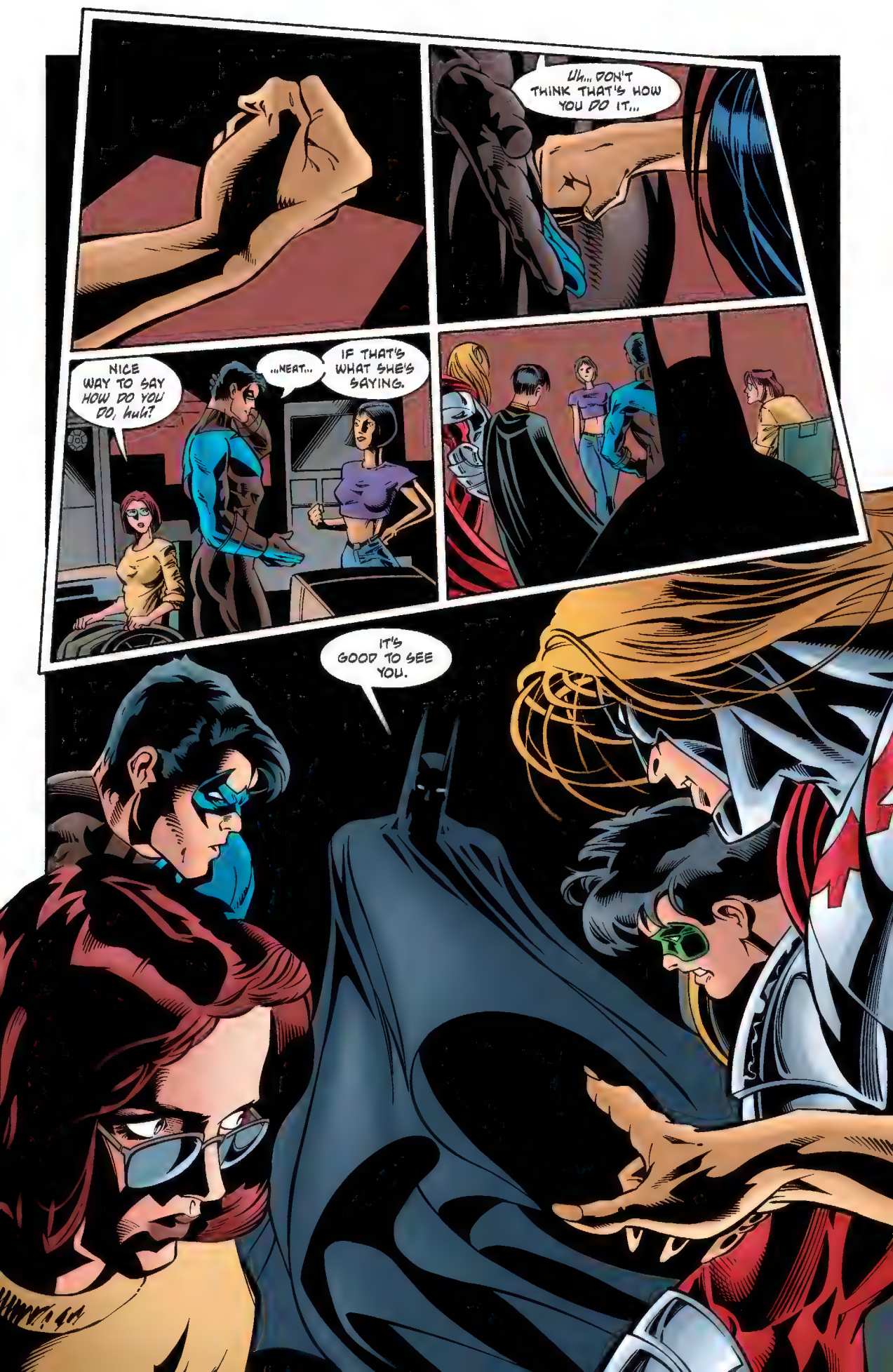
TWO-FACE ISN'T AN ALLY YOU CAN TRUST.
NEITHER, APPARENTLY, WERE YOU.

JIM?
I HEARD SHOUTING...
...JIM?

I LIKE HER.
YEAH, ME TOO.
Ooh, MY EARS ARE BURNING...

...TALKING ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK!
YOU WISH, SHORT STUFF.
AH, THEN YOU MUST HAVE MEANT ME.
HE'S DELUSIONAL--
OW!
WATCH IT. YOU'RE NOT TOO BIG TO SPANK.
WHAP
AZRAEL.
NIGHTWING.
AND THIS WOULD BE...?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A NAME.
SHE'S BEEN HELPING.
THEY'RE OKAY, IF GOOFY.
THE SMALLER ONE, HE'S ROBIN.
THE BIGGER ONE--WITH THE EGO TO MATCH--THAT'S NIGHTWING.
WHAT IS THIS, ABUSE NIGHTWING DAY?
ONLY UNTIL FIVE. THEN IT'S ABUSE AZRAEL DAY.
HEY!
NICE TO MEET YOU.

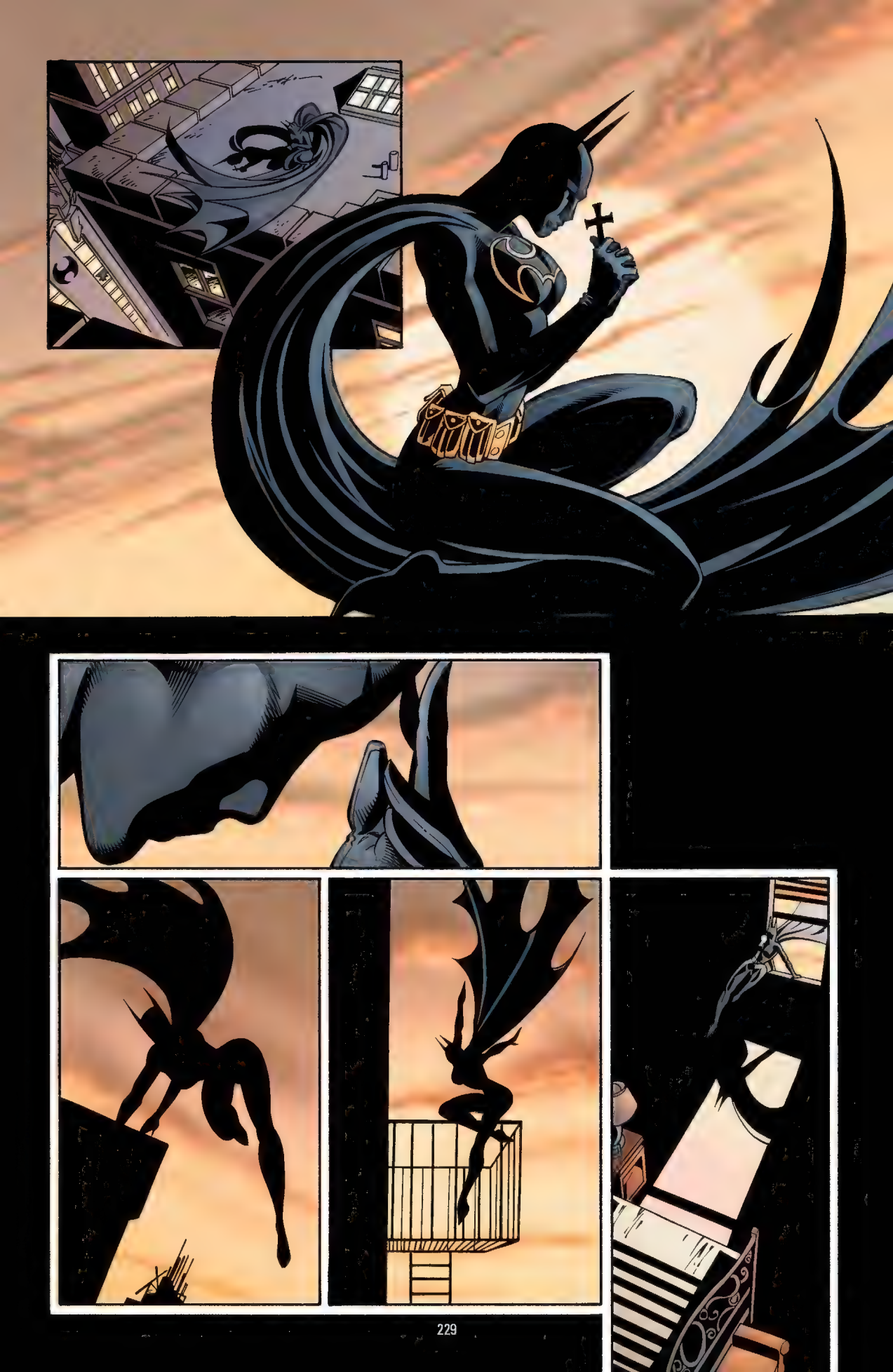

Uh... DON'T THINK THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT...
NICE WAY TO SAY HOW DO YOU DO, huh?
...NEAT...
IF THAT'S WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

YOU'VE COME FAR. NOW I NEED YOU TO WAIT HERE.
NIGHTWING, YOU'RE WITH ME.
Oh, SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE?

AND WHERE ARE WE GOING ?
YOU'LL SEE.

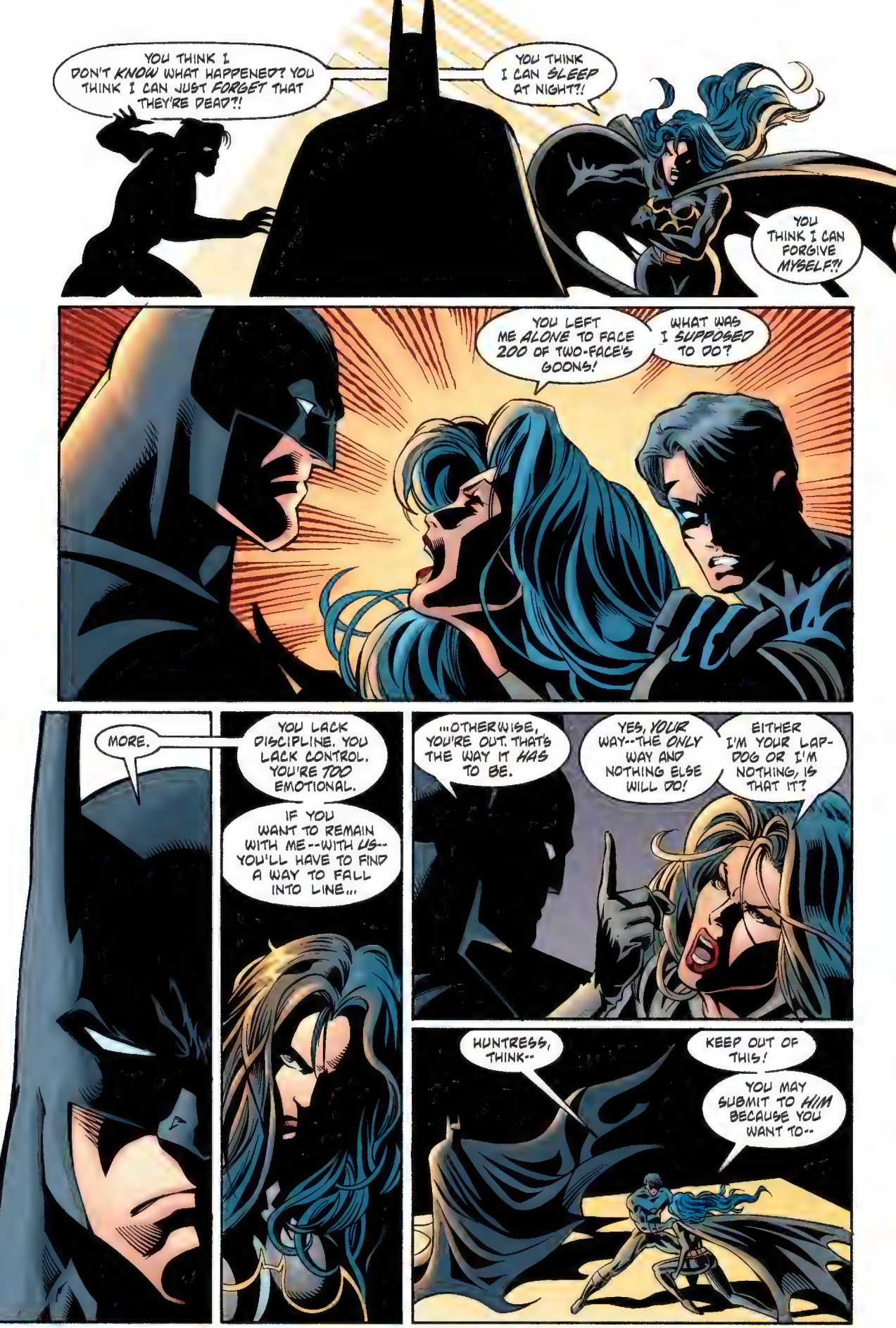
HEY!
RELAX, ROBIN...

...SHE'S JUST SAYING HELLO.



IT'S HARDER THAN YOU THOUGHT, ISN'T IT--
--HUNTRESS.
NOT WORKING OUT LIKE YOU PLANNED?
NO...
DID YOU... DID YOU KNOW FROM THE START?
YES.

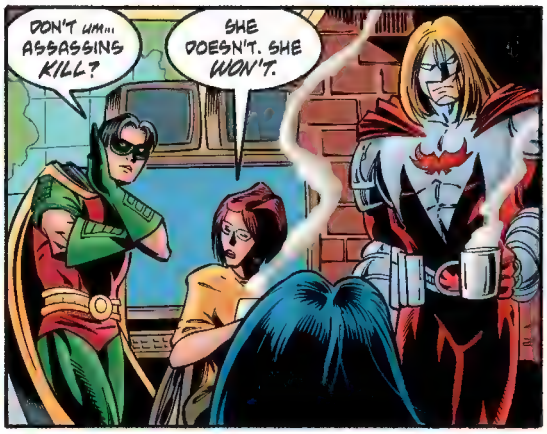
SIX PEOPLE ARE DEAD.
MY FAULT AS MUCH AS YOURS.
YOU WANT TO KEEP THAT COWL?
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TRUST YOU. I HAVE TO KNOW THAT YOU'LL FOLLOW ORDERS.
I TRIED--
TRYING ISN'T ENOUGH.
YOU WERE TO STOP BLACK MASK OUT OF SIGHT OF THE CLOCKTOWER. YOU FAILED.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME WHEN I TOOK BLACK MASK INTO CUSTODY. YOU DISOBEYED.
I TOLD YOU TO PROTECT OUR TERRITORY, OUR PEOPLE...
...BUT TWO-FACE NOW COMMANDS THAT LAND.
AND SIX MORE BODIES ARE IN THE GROUND.
AND YOU BLAME ME!
NO.
I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE.
AS I HOLD MYSELF.


YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? YOU THINK I CAN JUST FORGET THAT THEY'RE DEAD?!
YOU THINK I CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT?!
YOU THINK I CAN FORGIVE MYSELF?!
YOU LEFT ME ALONE TO FACE 200 OF TWO-FACE'S GOONS!
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
MORE.
YOU LACK DISCIPLINE. YOU LACK CONTROL. YOU'RE TOO EMOTIONAL.
IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN WITH ME--WITH US--YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO FALL INTO LINE...
...OTHERWISE, YOU'RE OUT. THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
YES, YOUR WAY--THE ONLY WAY AND NOTHING ELSE WILL DO!
EITHER I'M YOUR LAP-DOG OR I'M NOTHING, IS THAT IT?
HUNTRESS, THINK--
KEEP OUT OF THIS!
YOU MAY SUBMIT TO HIM BECAUSE YOU WANT TO--

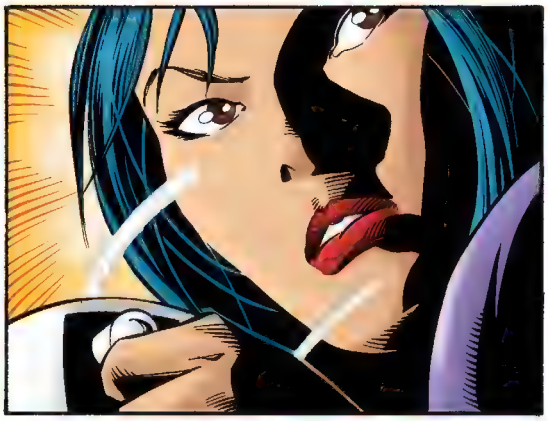
--BUT I DON'T TAKE ORDERS, AND CERTAINLY NOT FROM YOU!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
NOT MINE. NOT ANYMORE.
DON'T TOUCH ME.
I WON'T BE WHAT YOU WANT, BATMAN.
DON'T ASK ME.
I CAN'T.
THEN STAY OUT OF IT. YOU'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY.
I CAN'T DO THAT, EITHER.

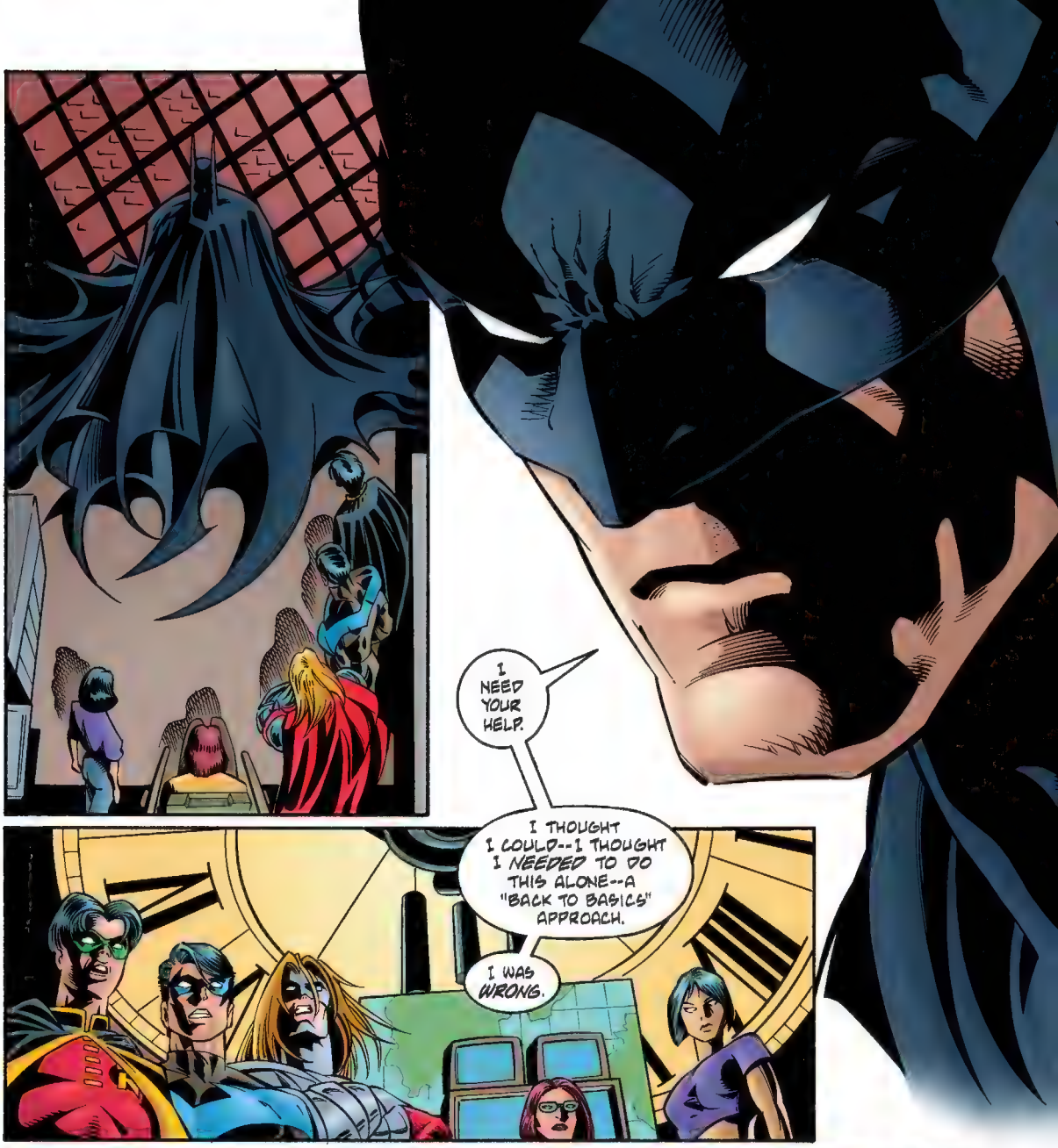
YOU CAN'T PUSH HER LIKE THAT AND EXPECT HER TO PLAY ALONG.
I KNOW.
THEN YOU KNOW SHE WON'T "STAY OUT OF IT." SHE'LL GO ROGUE.
YES.
Uh-oh. I KNOW THAT TONE. THAT'S THE "I HAVE A PLAN" TONE.
YES.
I MADE A MESS OF IT, DICK.
I TRIED TO PRETEND IT WAS THE SAME. I KNEW WHAT I WAS WORKING FOR--
--GOTHAM'S REDEMPTION--BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET THERE.
WHAT TWO-FACE DID WOKE ME UP.
YES.
THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED FOR US.
LET'S GO. ORACLE IS WAITING.

...CAIN? AS IN SLEW ABEL?
THAT'S THE IDEA. EXCEPT THIS CAIN IS AN ASSASSIN. AND THAT ASSASSIN IS HER FATHER.
AND HER FATHER TRAINED HER.
THAT'S THE IMPRESSION WE'VE BEEN GETTING.


DON'T UM... ASSASSINS KILL?
SHE DOESN'T. SHE WON'T.

THAT'S COOL.



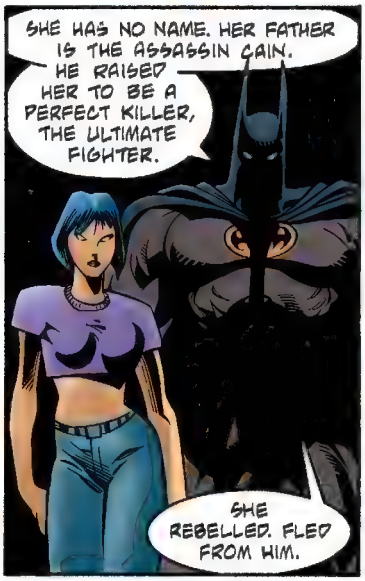

I NEED YOUR HELP.
I THOUGHT I COULD--I THOUGHT I NEEDED TO DO THIS ALONE--A "BACK TO BASICS" APPROACH.
I WAS WRONG.

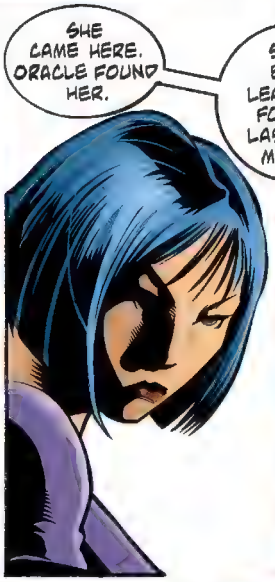
NO ONE PERSON CAN DO THIS ALONE...
NO MAN'S LAND IS TOO BIG... TOO... DARK.
THE ONLY WAY TO BRING LIGHT BACK TO GOTHAM IS WORKING TOGETHER.

ALL OF US.

BY US YOU MEAN ALSO, HER.
CORRECT.
I CAN SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING.
YOU CAN TRUST HER.

SIX MONTHS AGO THAT WOULD'VE GOTTEN YOU FURTHER THAN IT WILL NOW.
NOW, I'M NOT SURE IT'S ENOUGH.
WHAT MORE WOULD IT TAKE?
AN EXPLANATION OF WHO SHE IS FOR A START.

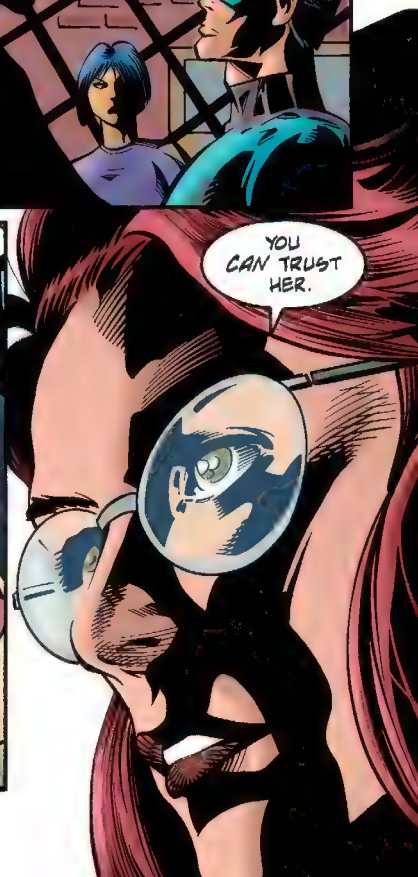

SHE HAS NO NAME. HER FATHER IS THE ASSASSIN CAIN. HE RAISED HER TO BE A PERFECT KILLER, THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER.
SHE REBELLED. FLED FROM HIM.


SHE CAME HERE. ORACLE FOUND HER.
SHE'S BEEN LEARNING FOR THE LAST FIVE MONTHS.

THE YOUNG WOMAN IS AS WELL-TRAINED AND COMMITTED AS ANY OF YOU. SHE WILL NEVER TAKE A LIFE. SHE WILL NEVER SURRENDER A FIGHT.
YOU'RE SO CERTAIN.

HER FATHER WAS ONE OF THE MEN WHO TRAINED ME.
CAIN TRAINED YOU?
KNOWING HOW TO KILL DOESN'T MEAN YOU MUST KILL.
THAT'S WHY SHE LEFT HIM. THAT'S WHY SHE'S HERE, NOW.

I'M STILL NOT SURE THAT'S ENOUGH.
ORACLE?


YOU CAN TRUST HER.

LAST WEEK SHE SAVED MY FATHER'S LIFE.
TWICE.

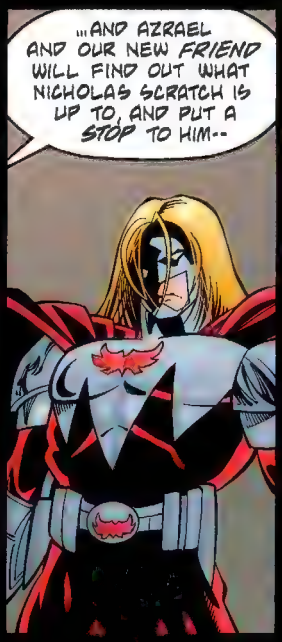
EVERYTHING BATMAN SAID ABOUT HER IS TRUE.
SHE CAN DO THE JOB.
SHE HAS MY BLESSING.

ALL RIGHT.
THEN THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO...

ORACLE WILL CONTINUE TO GATHER, INTERPRET, AND DISSEMINATE TACTICAL *INTELLIGENCE* FOR OUR OPERATIONS...

...ROBIN WILL WORK WITH ME ON A *SPECIAL* PROJECT IN ROBINSON PARK...

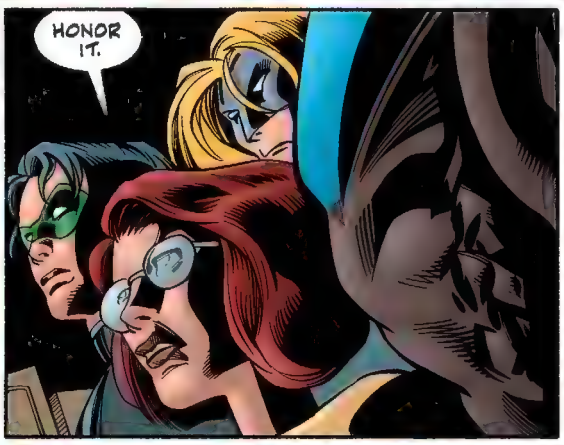
...WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, NIGHTWING WILL BE *INSIDE* BLACKGATE.
WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, BLACKGATE WILL BE UNDER HIS *COMPLETE* CONTROL...


...AND AZRAEL AND OUR NEW *FRIEND* WILL FIND OUT WHAT NICHOLAS SCRATCH IS UP TO, AND PUT A *STOP* TO HIM--

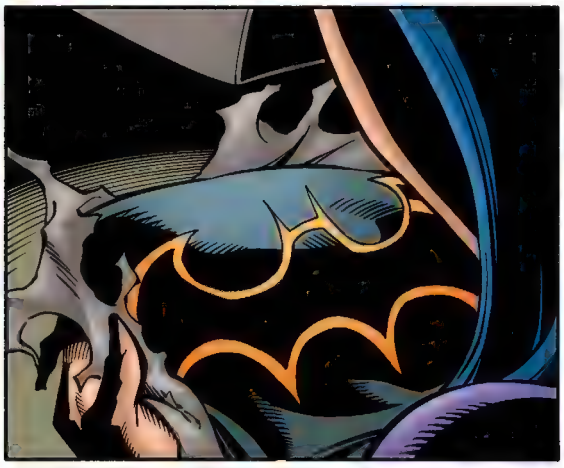
--THE MAN MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR GOTHAM CITY BEING DECLARED A NO MAN'S LAND.

ANY QUESTIONS?
IT IS A SACRED TRUST.

REMEMBER THAT.


HONOR IT.

YOU CAN CHANGE IN THE BEDROOM.



SHE LOOKS ALMOST AS GOOD IN THE EARS AS YOU DID.
MY OPINION...SHE LOOKS BETTER.
ENOUGH.
THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE.

PUCKETT • SCOTT • CAMPANELLA
BATGIRL
8
NOV 00
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Her name is
SHIVA.
She cannot be defeated.
It will amuse her to
DESTROY Batgirl.

OKAY, SO SHE'S FAST.
AND STRONG. DEADLY. LADY SHIVA-- BEST IN THE WORLD.
AND I, BATGIRL, HAVE NO DEFENSIVE SKILLS AT ALL.
SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE EXTRA...

...CAREFUL.
KRAK
NOTHING PERSONAL.

ONE CHANCE. SHIVA HAS A WEAKNESS.
SHE CAN'T RESIST A CHALLENGE.
YOU... AND... ME.
GO.
THANK YOU.

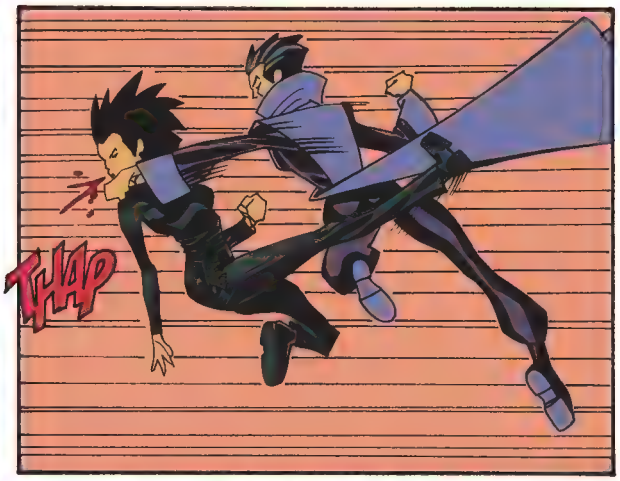
WHAM
FLOOR
SHE'S HUMAN. SHE HAS A BRAIN. AND A SKULL TO SLAM IT AGAINST.
ALL I NEED IS ONE HIT.
JUST
ONE
HIT!

SNAP

SHE'S READING ME. PREDICT-ING--

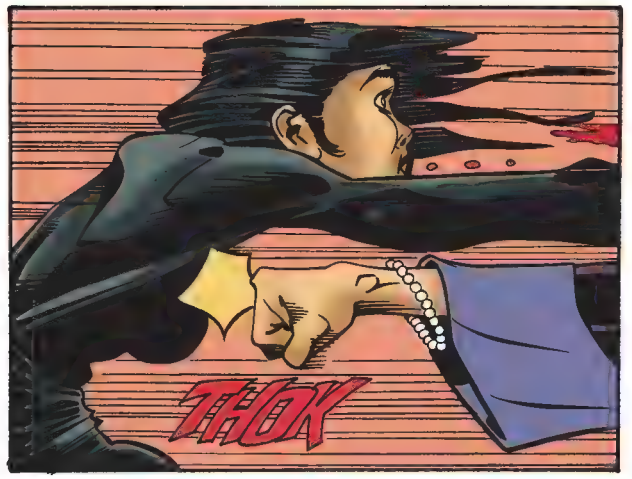
THAK

PREDICTING MOVES WAS MY DEFENSE! HOW'D SHE--


THAP

WHAP

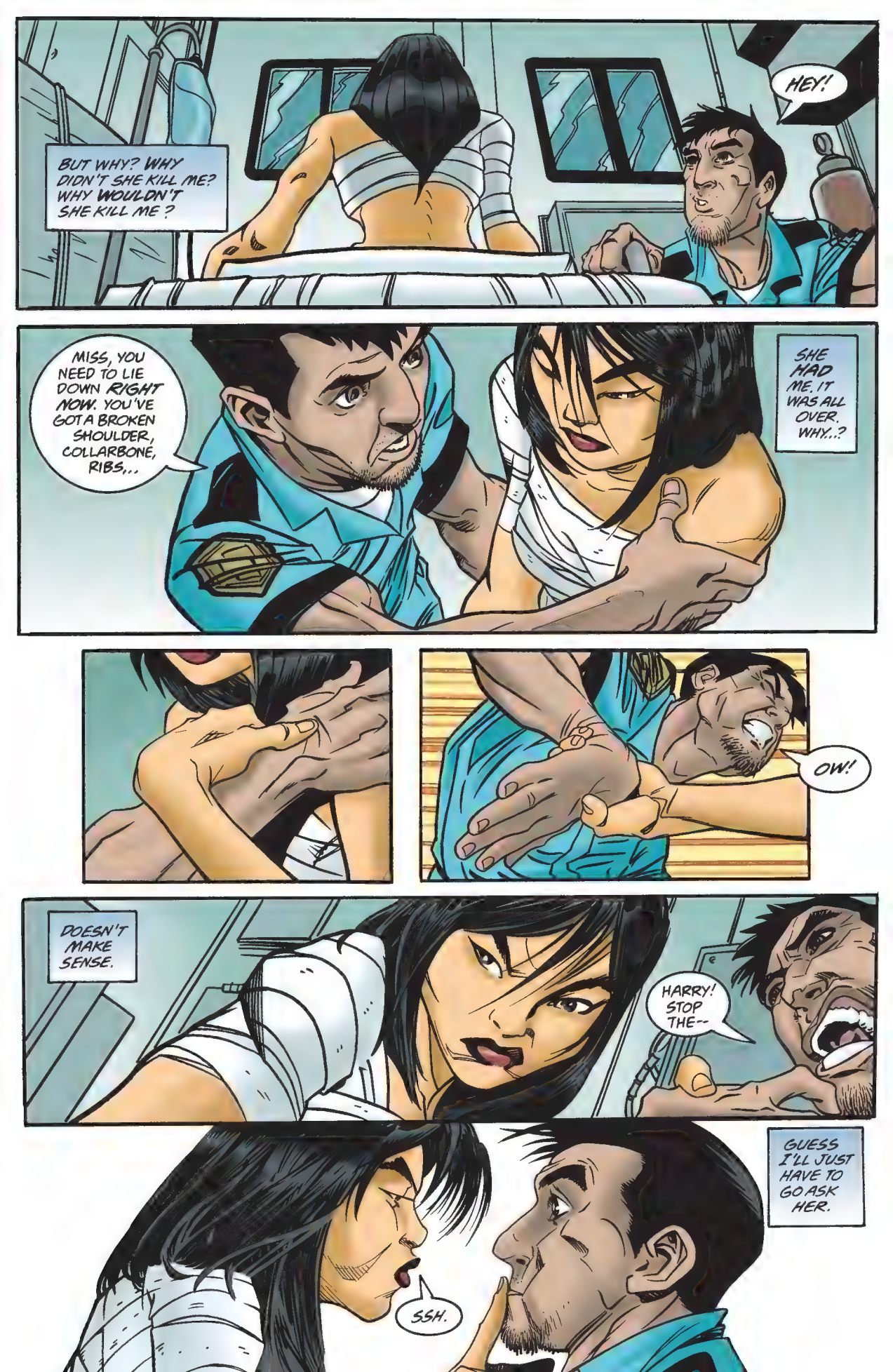
OKAY... NOW YOU'RE GONNA--


THOK

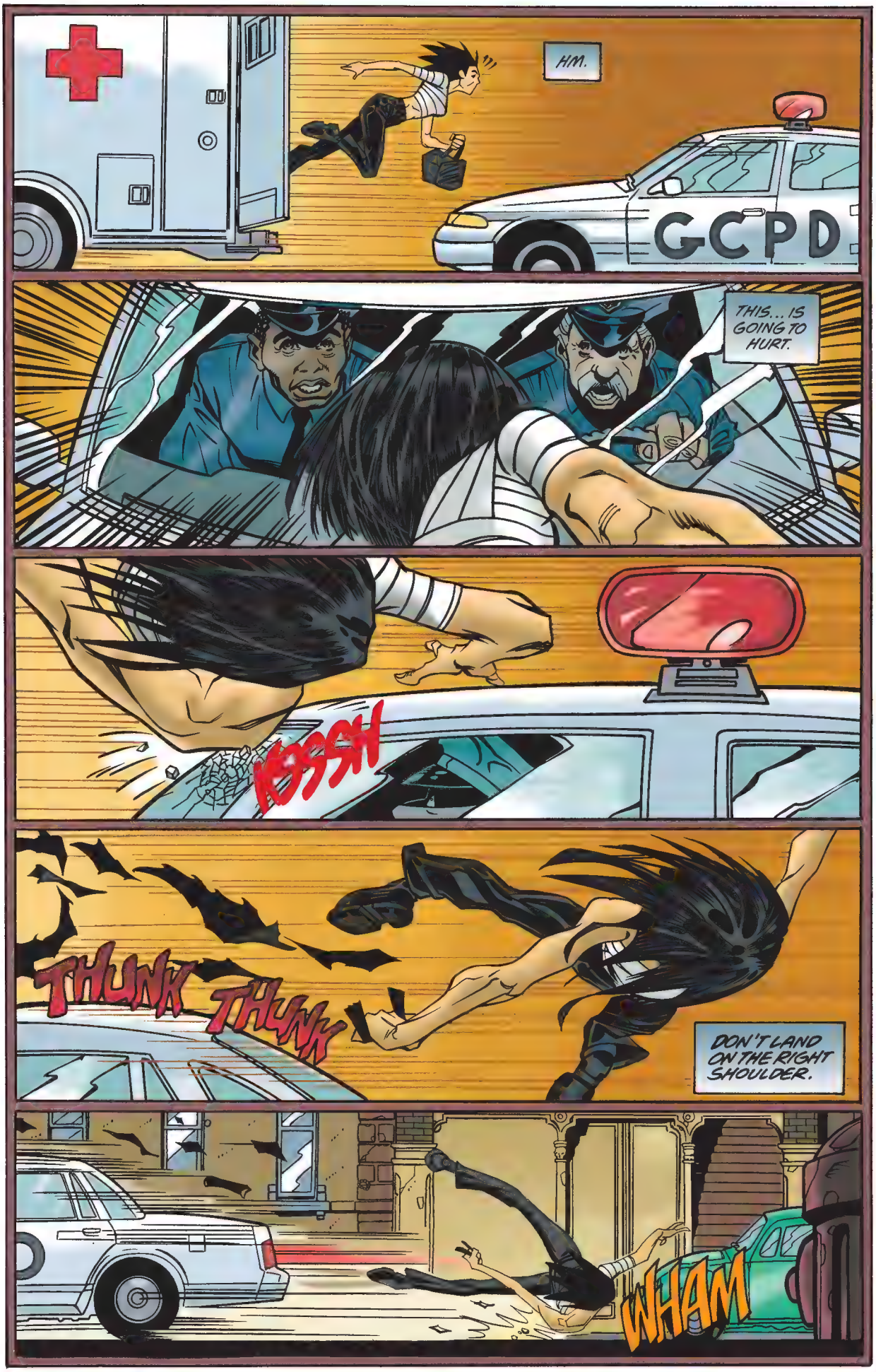
NERVE CLUSTER STRIKE. PARALYZED-- NECK DOWN.
CHEAP.

UH-OH.
KILL SHOT.
NOTHING I CAN DO.
GUESS I COULD STILL...
...SPIT IN HER FACE...
WHY'D I THINK OF THAT--?

WHAT...?
SHE DIDN'T KILL ME. HUH.
MISTAKE.


BUT WHY? WHY DIDN'T SHE KILL ME? WHY WOULDN'T SHE KILL ME?
HEY!
MISS, YOU NEED TO LIE DOWN RIGHT NOW. YOU'VE GOT A BROKEN SHOULDER, COLLARBONE, RIBS...
SHE HAD ME. IT WAS ALL OVER. WHY...?
OW!
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
HARRY! STOP THE--
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ASK HER.
SSH.

RIGHT ARM'S USELESS.
AND I'M TOPLESS. MY SHIRT MUST BE HERE SOME--
--WHERE...
THANKS.
UH...YOU'RE WELCOME?


HM.
GCPD
THIS... IS GOING TO HURT.
KOSSH
THUNK THUNK
DON'T LAND ON THE RIGHT SHOULDER.
WHAM

JUST A FEW MORE RIBS GONE. LUCKY.
GCPD
WHAT...
...HER BRACELET?
THEY MUST'VE THOUGHT IT WAS MINE.
EXTRA LUCKY.
KEEP MOVING.

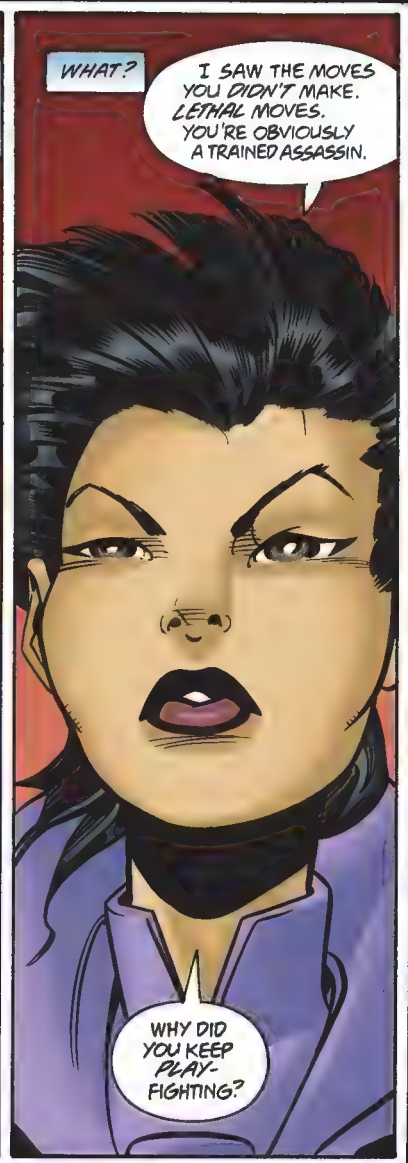
SOME MIGHT SAY THIS IS STUPID.
SHE TOOK ME APART WHEN I WAS HEALTHY. HOW AM I GOING TO BEAT HER WITH ONE HAND?
OKAY. EVEN I'LL ADMIT THIS IS STUPID.
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
I SHOULD JUST LEAVE THIS AND--

I REMEMBER NOW. WHEN I THOUGHT... SHE'D KILLED ME... KEPT THINKING ABOUT...
...MY KILL.
WE'RE A LOT ALIKE, YOU AND I.

IN TERMS OF OUR COLORING, I MEAN. THE PEARLS SUIT YOU.
IN TERMS OF COMBAT SKILLS ... THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. AS YOU NOW KNOW.
DIDN'T... KILL... ME. WHY?
WHY WOULD I? I'M A WARRIOR, NOT A MURDERER.
BUT... THE... GIRL...
IN THE RESTAURANT? IF I'D WANTED TO KILL HER, YOU COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME.
SHE DID ALL THAT JUST TO GET ME TO FIGHT HER?
BUT... BUT...
I ATTACKED HER BECAUSE SHE HAD BODY-GUARDS. YOUR KIND ALWAYS SEEM TO NEED A VICTIM BEFORE YOU'LL PUT UP A FIGHT.
NOT THAT YOU DID.

IT'S GETTING LATE, AND I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON YOU ALREADY.
I'D HEARD YOU WERE GOOD. VERY GOOD.

IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I FOUND THAT NOT ONLY IS YOUR DEFENSE PITIFUL...
...BUT THAT YOU WON'T EVEN FIGHT LIKE WE BOTH KNOW YOU CAN.


WHAT?
I SAW THE MOVES YOU DIDN'T MAKE. LETHAL MOVES. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A TRAINED ASSASSIN.
WHY DID YOU KEEP PLAY-FIGHTING?

I DON'T KILL.

A WASTE. I'D HOPED SOMEDAY, YEARS FROM NOW, YOU MIGHT'VE POSED A REAL CHALLENGE.
IF YOU'D LET LOOSE, A DEATH-DUEL... COULD BE INTERESTING.
AS IT IS, I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR LIKE-MINDED MENTOR.
MY BRACELET, PLEASE.
COME... GET... IT.
STILL DEFIANT? PERHAPS THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET.
BUT I THINK I'VE BROKEN ENOUGH OF YOUR BONES TONIGHT.
DON'T FORCE ME TO HURT YOU SOME MORE. BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL...
... HAND IT OVER WITH YOUR BROKEN ARM.

THANK YOU.

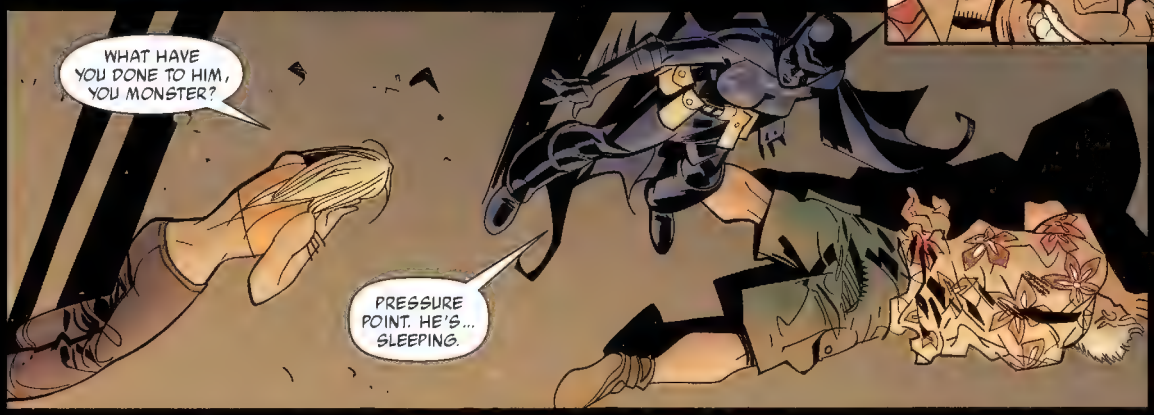
KELLEY PUCKETT:writer / DAMION SCOTT:penciller / ROBERT CAMPANELLA:inker
JOHN COSTANZA:letters / JASON WRIGHT:colors / JAMISON:seps
FRANK BERRIOS:assistant / DENNIS O'NEIL:editor

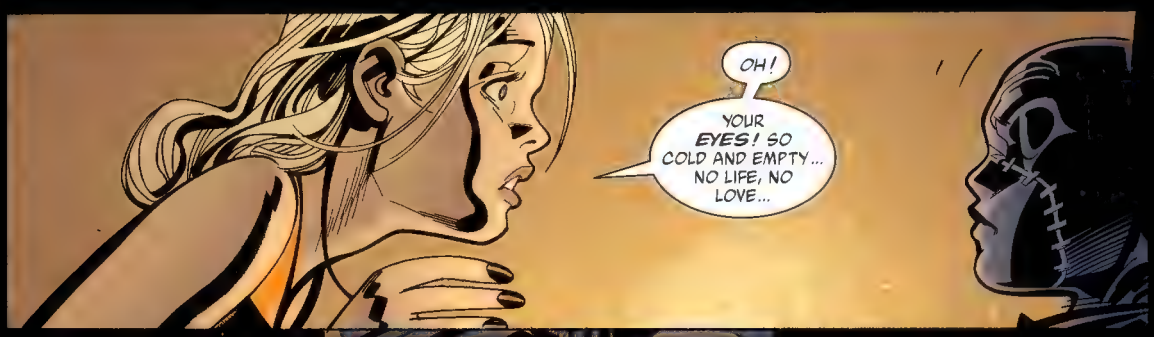
DC
HORROCKS • LEONARDI • DELPERDANG
45
DEC 03
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATGIRL
03

OH, YEAH-- IT'S KICKING IN NOW... FEELS SO GOOD, SO SWEET...
LIKE LOVE--LIKE PURE, ECSTATIC JOY...
TOTALLY AT PEACE...
IS IT LIKE THAT FOR YOU, TOO, JEFF?
UNHH...

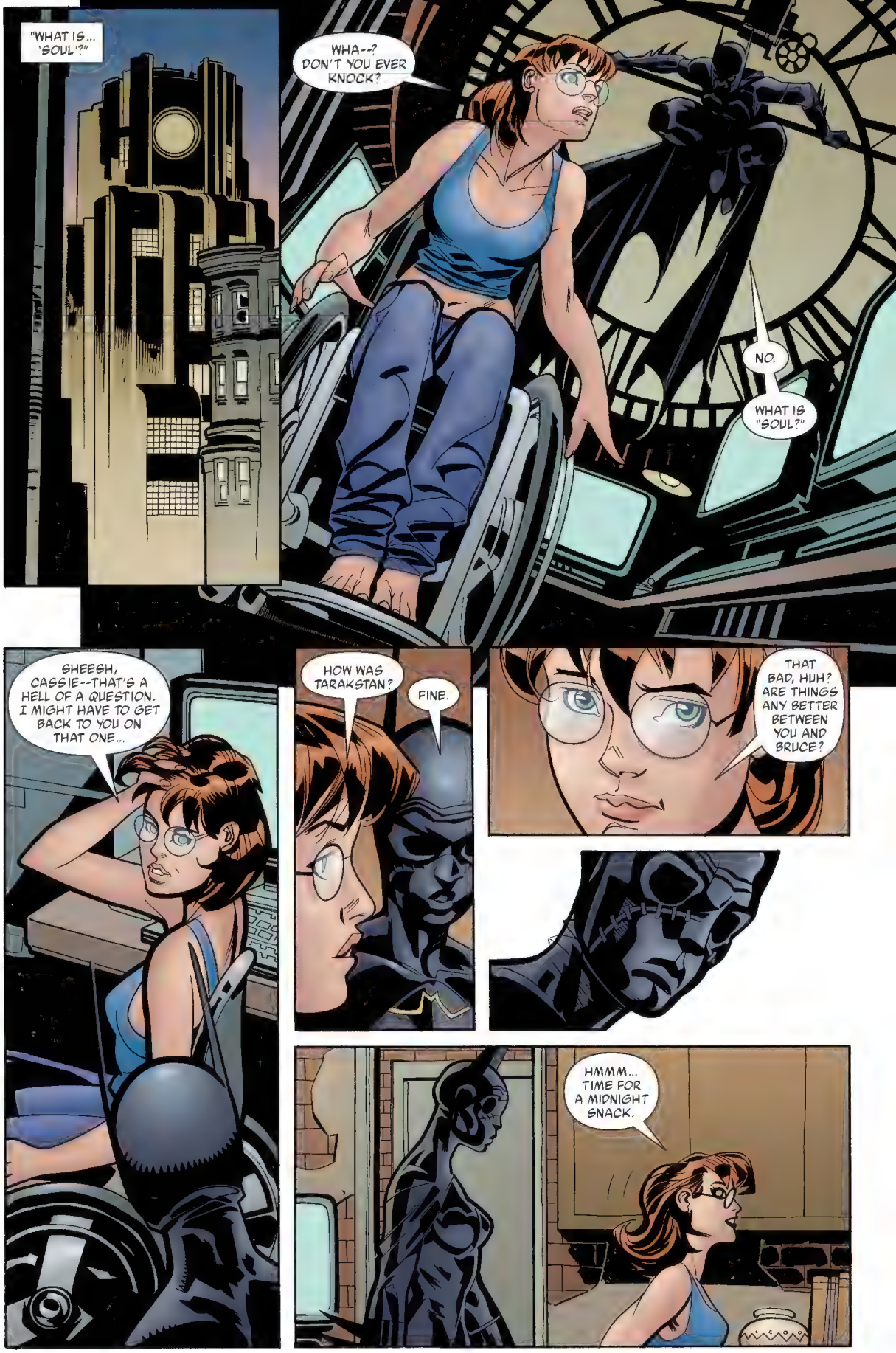
...JEFF?
RRUUAARRGH!
SOUL
DYLAN HORROCKS, WRITER
RICK LEONARDI, PENCILLER
JESSE DELPERDANG, INKER
JASON WRIGHT, COLORIST
CLEM ROBINS, LETTERER
MICHAEL WRIGHT, EDITOR

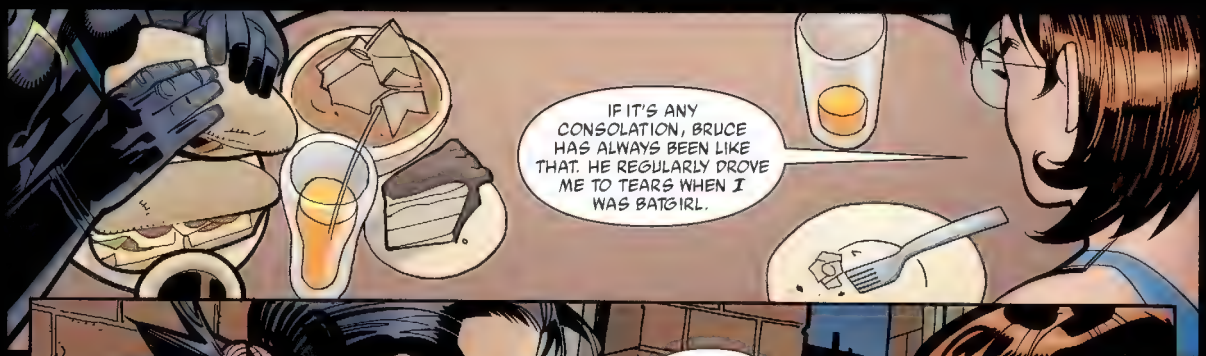
RRRULLLAARGH!
HELP!
RAURGH!

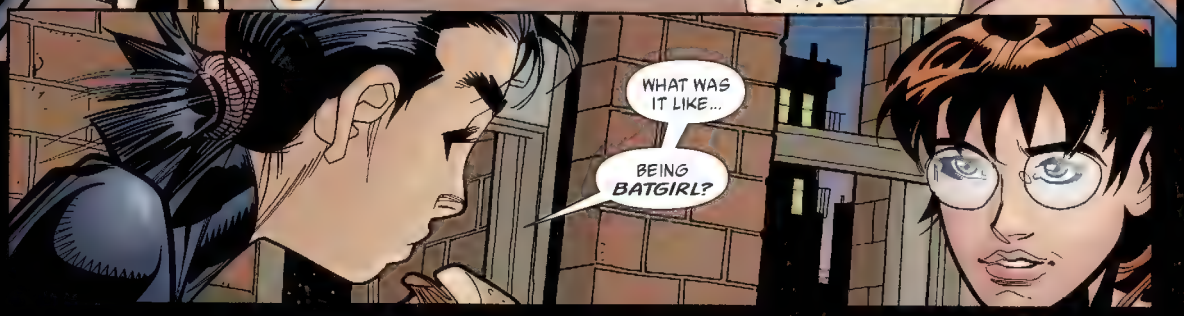

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM, YOU MONSTER?
PRESSURE POINT. HE'S... SLEEPING.


OH!
YOUR EYES! SO COLD AND EMPTY... NO LIFE, NO LOVE...

NO SOUL...


"WHAT IS... 'SOUL'?"
WHA--? DON'T YOU EVER KNOCK?
NO.
WHAT IS "SOUL?"
SHEESH, CASSIE--THAT'S A HELL OF A QUESTION. I MIGHT HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT ONE...
HOW WAS TARAKSTAN?
FINE.
THAT BAD, HUH? ARE THINGS ANY BETTER BETWEEN YOU AND BRUCE?
HMMM... TIME FOR A MIDNIGHT SNACK.


IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, BRUCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. HE REGULARLY DROVE ME TO TEARS WHEN I WAS BATGIRL.


WHAT WAS IT LIKE...
BEING BATGIRL?

IT WAS FUN.
I MEAN, SOME OF IT WAS HORRIBLE, BUT MOSTLY I JUST HAD INCREDIBLE FUN.

"FUN"...?

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TO PUT ON THAT OUTRAGEOUS GETUP--WITH THE SKINTIGHT LEATHER AND THE KNEE-HIGH BOOTS...
AND INSTANTLY I WOULD TURN INTO THIS WILD, SEXY, SMART-MOUTHED ACROBAT, WITH A KNOCKOUT SMILE AND A PUNCH TO MATCH...
ALL THE GUYS WERE CRAZY ABOUT ME--EVEN THE ONES I PUT INTO TRACTION.

YEAH--IT WAS FUN.

IT'S GOTTA BE IN HERE SOMEWHERE...
BRUCE WANTED TO PUT IT IN THAT CREEPY PRIVATE MUSEUM OF HIS, BUT I--
A-HAH!
PRESENTING... THE ORIGINAL BATGIRL!
I KEEP THINKING IT'S TIME TO THROW IT AWAY...BUT I--I JUST CAN'T.
GOD, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THOSE BOOTS...
DO YOU... MISS IT?
ARE YOU KIDDING? OF COURSE I MISS IT! SOME DAYS I'D GIVE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD TO BE EIGHTEEN AGAIN, LEAPING AROUND THE CITY WITH BATMAN...
...AND ROBIN.
THERE'S THIS PARTICULAR LOOK DICK USED TO GIVE ME WHEN I WAS WEARING THAT COSTUME.
I DON'T THINK EVEN HE REALIZED HE WAS DOING IT...
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, SO...

?
GOTHAM
GOOD EVENING, MISS CASSANDRA.

SORRY, ALFRED.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, MISS CASSANDRA. FOR ALL YOU KNEW, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DEADLY NINJA ASSASSIN.
...OR PERHAPS EVEN THE JOKER HIMSELF.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
OH, I POP BY ONCE A WEEK, MY DEAR--GIVE THE PLACE A QUICK TIDY, RESTOCK THE CUPBOARDS, DISPOSE OF THE REFRIGERATOR'S MOST ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS...
I ALWAYS COME AT NIGHT, OF COURSE, WHILE YOU'RE OUT FIGHTING CRIME AND WHATNOT.

I EXPECT YOU'VE WONDERED WHO'S BEEN CLEANING AND FOLDING YOUR LAUNDRY ALL THIS TIME...
um...NO.
BTOK

QUITE.
YOU'RE BACK EARLIER THAN USUAL TONIGHT. I TRUST EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT?

burp
JUST... TIRED.

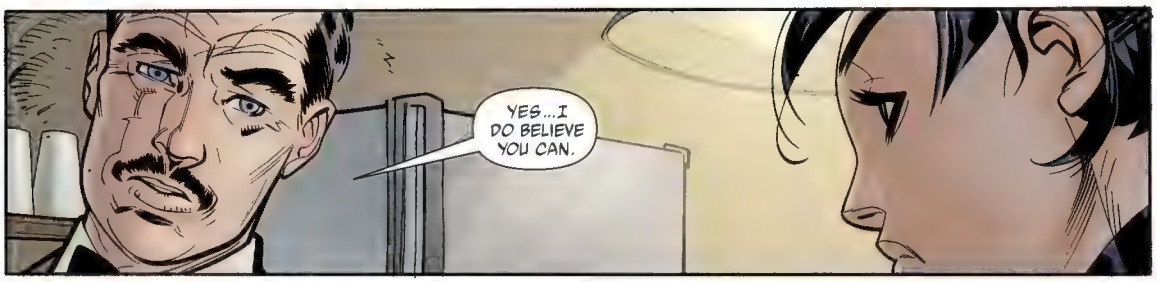
Hmmm...PROBABLY JET-LAG. NOTHING A CUP OF MY SPECIAL HERBAL TEA AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WON'T FIX...

PERHAPS YOU OUGHT TO TAKE THE WEEKEND OFF, MISS CASSANDRA. AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN TARAKSTAN, I BELIEVE A GOOD REST MIGHT BE IN ORDER...

WHAT... WHAT DID HE TELL YOU...?
I TAKE SOME PRIDE, MISS CASSANDRA, IN THE FACT THAT MASTER BRUCE SELDOM NEEDS TO TELL ME ***ANY-THING.***

HE JUST WORRIES ABOUT YOU, MY DEAR. HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT.

I CAN LOOK AFTER ***MYSELF.***


YES...I DO BELIEVE YOU CAN.

COMPUTER. OPEN FILE: "OLD BATGIRL."
THEN TRY...um...
File Name Invalid
TRY "ORIGINAL BATGIRL."
File: Original Batgirl

Girl Power!

JUST DO WHAT WE SAY AND NOBODY GETS HURT...
UH... GARY?

HOLY--
SLIIIP
THUD
OW!
CHECK IT OUT! SHE SLIPPED ON HER HIGH HEELS!

HEY THERE, CUTIE...WANNA PLAY?

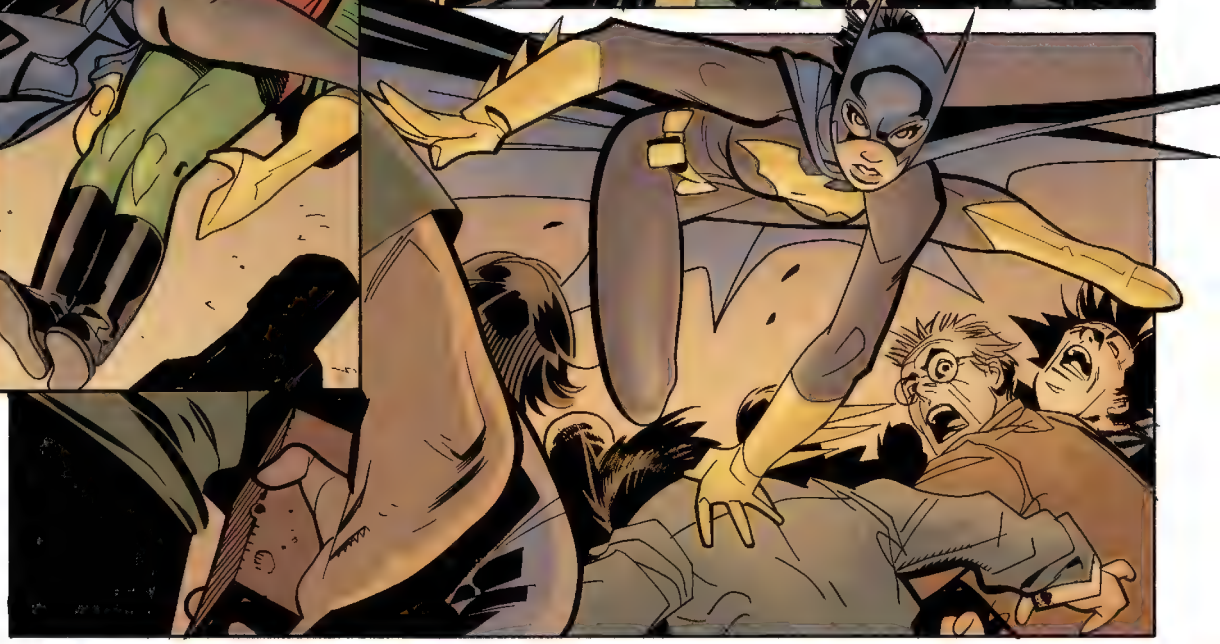
WOW...

BOOOM!

OKAY, PEOPLE--BREAK IT UP AND GO HOME...!
THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING! STOP NOW, BEFORE--
BATGIRL, THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE--
WOW! LOOK AT YOU!
WRAWWWM!

UH...THANKS, BATGIRL.
I--UH...NICE COSTUME...

PHEW...!



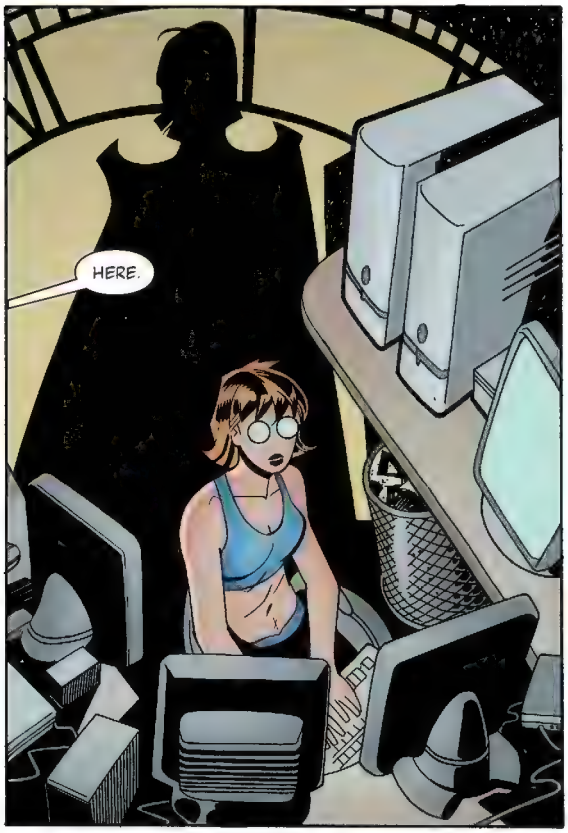
NO, SERIOUSLY, BATGIRL--WHAT'S WITH THE NEW LOOK?
ISN'T THAT BABS' OLD OUTFIT?

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING, OF COURSE...IT--UH--IT REALLY SUITS YOU!

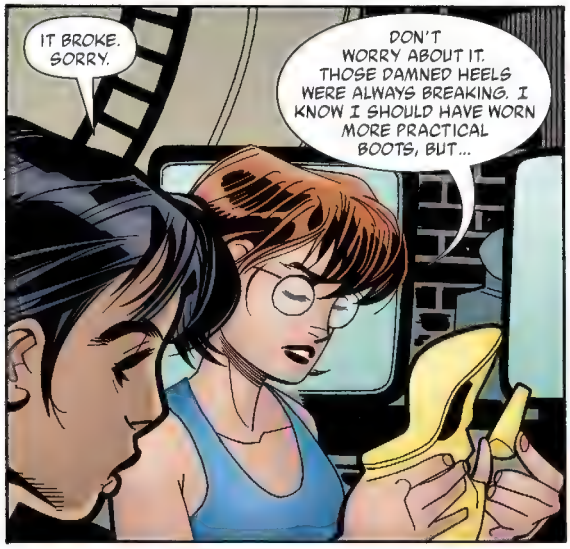
IN FACT, I CAN'T BELIEVE I NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE, BUT YOU ARE ONE VERY HOT--
POW

GROAN!
WHAT HIT ME...?
I THINK THE SHAPE OF MY SKULL'S BEEN PERMANENTLY ALTERED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CLUE.
SURPRISE, SURPRISE. LOOKS LIKE THOSE IDIOTS WERE ON "SOUL."
"SOUL"?

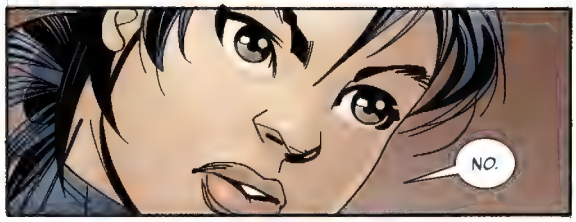
APPARENTLY THERE'S A NEW DESIGNER DRUG DOING THE ROUNDS IN GOTHAM.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU FEEL BLISSFULLY HIGH-- HAPPY, TRIPPY, RELAXED...
GOTHAM
BUT ON SOME PEOPLE, IT SEEMS TO HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT EFFECT...
"SOUL"...
WELL, I'D BETTER GET THESE BACK TO THE BATCAVE FOR ANALYSIS.
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DO LOOK FANTASTIC IN THAT COSTUME.
JUST DON'T LET BATMAN SEE YOU WEARING IT. I GUARANTEE YOU'D BE GROUNDED FOR LIFE!

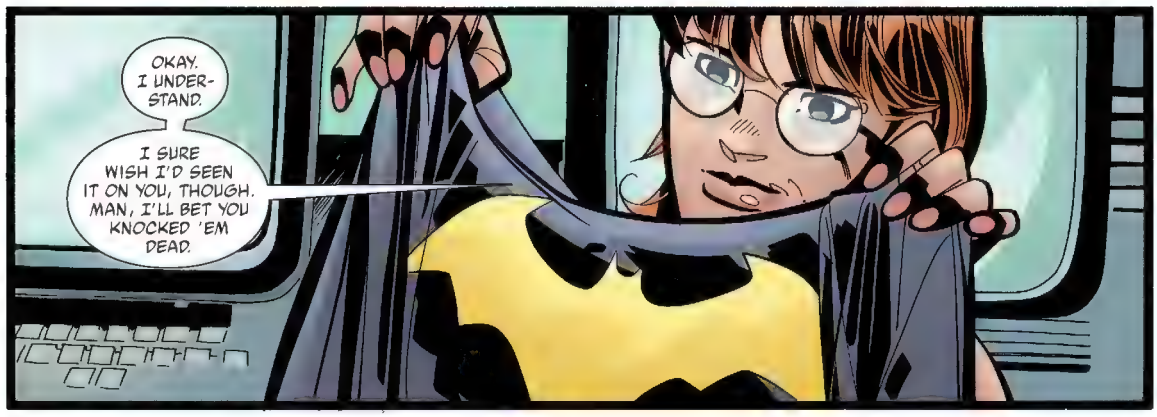

HERE.

WELL, WELL... I WAS WONDERING WHERE THAT HAD GONE.


IT BROKE. SORRY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THOSE DAMNED HEELS WERE ALWAYS BREAKING. I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE WORN MORE PRACTICAL BOOTS, BUT...

YOU KNOW, CASS... YOU CAN KEEP IT, IF YOU WANT TO... I MEAN--


NO.


OKAY. I UNDER-STAND.
I SURE WISH I'D SEEN IT ON YOU, THOUGH. MAN, I'LL BET YOU KNOCKED 'EM DEAD.

HEY, I THINK I FINALLY CAME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION--THE ONE ABOUT "SOUL"?
YOU KNOW AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHEN YOU CLOSE THE DOOR AND YOU'RE ALL ALONE...AND YOU STRIP OFF YOUR ARMOR AND LOWER YOUR GUARD AND PEEL AWAY THE MASK...
WHEN THERE'S NOBODY WATCHING AND NOTHING TO HIDE...AND YOU NO LONGER NEED TO BE STRONG OR CLEVER OR PRETTY OR BRAVE...
THERE'S JUST YOU.
THAT'S IT.
THAT'S THE SOUL.

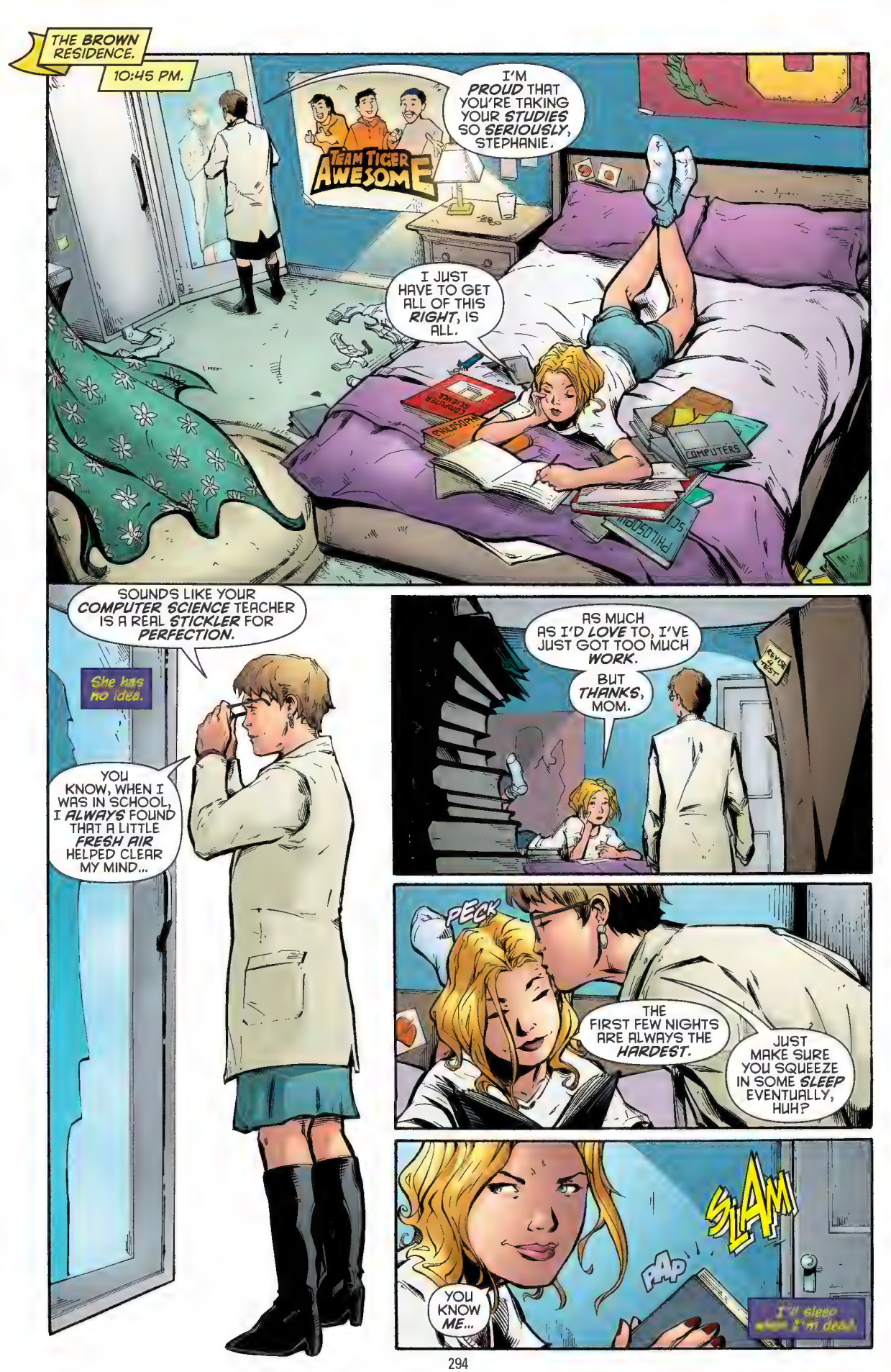
PART II • 1999-2008
RAISING CAIN

In 1999, the world of Batman was literally rocked during the "No Man's Land" storyline when a devastating earthquake leveled Gotham City. It was during this crisis that a temporary Batgirl emerged, clad from head to toe in a stealthy black uniform. She was eventually revealed to be Helena Bertinelli, who had previously fought crime as the Huntress. After an argument with Batman, Helena gave up the mantle of Batgirl, setting the stage for both a new hero and the first regular BATGIRL comic book series.

The newest Batgirl was Cassandra Cain, a mute Asian-American girl who had been trained by her father, the deadly assassin David Cain, to master weaponry, explosives and nearly all forms of combat. After she killed a crime boss, Cassandra was racked with guilt and fled to Gotham City, where she met Barbara Gordon. With the blessing and guidance of Oracle, Cassandra fought as Batgirl alongside Batman and his allies. James Jean, cover artist on much of the BATGIRL series' run, said of drawing Cass, "I wanted to convey the idea that a small, lithe girl could decimate a larger opponent with confidence and style."

After the apparent death of Batman during the "Final Crisis" storyline, Cassandra abandoned her Batgirl identity. Fortunately, there was an eager applicant ready to assume the mantle.

DC
BATGIRL
4
JAN '10
BRYAN Q. MILLER
LEE GARBETT
TREVOR SCOTT
MEET THE NEW BATGIRL!
WHAT IS YOUR SCENE, BABY, WE JUST GOTTA KNOW!


THE BROWN RESIDENCE.
10:45 PM.
TEAM TIGER AWESOME
I'M PROUD THAT YOU'RE TAKING YOUR STUDIES SO SERIOUSLY, STEPHANIE.
I JUST HAVE TO GET ALL OF THIS RIGHT, IS ALL.
COMPUTERS
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER IS A REAL STICKLER FOR PERFECTION.
She has no idea.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, I ALWAYS FOUND THAT A LITTLE FRESH AIR HELPED CLEAR MY MIND...
AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO, I'VE JUST GOT TOO MUCH WORK.
BUT THANKS, MOM.
REVISE & TEST
PECK
THE FIRST FEW NIGHTS ARE ALWAYS THE HARDEST.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU SQUEEZE IN SOME SLEEP EVENTUALLY, HUH?
SLAM
PAP
YOU KNOW ME...
I'll sleep when I'm dead.

THE BATCAVE.
11:14 PM.
SWHIP
I'm a dutiful college student...
A devoted daughter...
TOOMP
And a magnet for trouble...
CLACK
Among other things...
UPLINKING NOW.
UPLINKING WHAT?
EVERYTHING.

HEART RATE, BLOOD PRESSURE... THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.
DOES IT TELL YOU WHAT I ATE FOR LUNCH, TOO?
DO YOU WANT IT TO?
NO.
NOW, IF YOU'D STAY IN THE CAVE FOR A NIGHT OR TWO I COULD MONITOR YOUR STATS AND THE SUIT'S PERFORMANCE IN PERSON--
BUT BEING AS YOU'RE SO STUBBORN--
AND THIRSTY FOR JUSTICE--
AND THIRSTY FOR JUSTICE--
I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP RECORDING YOUR VITALS ON THE FLY.
I DUNNO--I KIND OF LIKE THE MYSTERY OF THE WHOLE "FIELD TEST" THING.
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO DROP AN IPOD JACK INTO THIS THING YET, DID YOU?
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO HUM.
My name is Stephanie Brown, and--

BATGIRL RISING FIELD TEST

BRYAN Q. MILLER writer | TIM LEVINS & LEE GARBETT pencillers

DAN DAVIS, AARON SOWD, & TREVOR SCOTT inkers

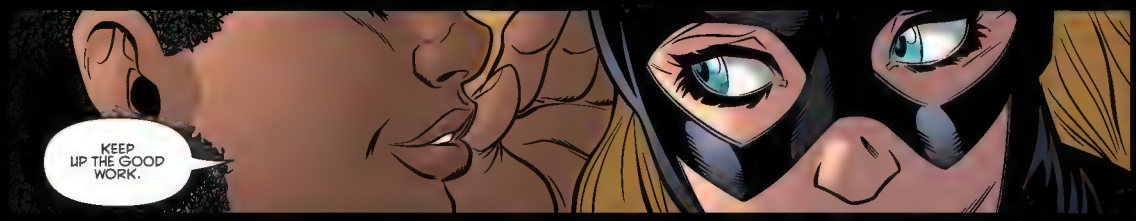
GUY MAJOR colorist | JOHN J. HILL letterer | PHIL NOTO cover

HARVEY RICHARDS Asst. Editor | MICHAEL SIGLAIN Editor | BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

BRRRIIINNNNNGGGG
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE PLAYING YOUR SONG.
AW, MAN!
CAN YOU AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT?
SORRY--
OLD HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK...
YEAH, BUT IT RUNS AT 720.
DON'T MATTER--YOU DON'T GET THE TRUE EXPERIENCE UNLESS YOU GET THE 1080.
CAN'T BEAT THAT IMAGE. JUMPS RIGHT OUT AT YA!
LIKE THIS?
BATGIRL, YOUR HEART RATE JUST SPIKED--EVERYTHING OKAY?
GUYS?
-OOFA!-
"Depends--how much weight can the grapple hold again?"

GOTHAM SQUARE.
12:02 AM.
...AND AS THE NIGHT SETS IN, WE WAIT FOR A CHANCE TO SEE ANOTHER KIND OF KNIGHT, THE KIND WITH A "K"--
IF YOU LOOK TO THE SKIES, TO THE STATELY ROOF-TOPS, TO OUR HISTORIC GARGOYLES, YOU MIGHT JUST CATCH A GLIMPSE OF--
--NO, BATGIRL!
BATGIRL...
OR BATWOMAN. OR BATMAN. OR BATMITE. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ALMOST--
SORRY!
Oddly enough, this is me on a good night.
OHGOD-OHGODOH-GOD
CLAP-CLAP
A week ago, I probably would have forgotten to use the grapple...
AT LEAST THEY GOT YOUR GOOD SIDE.
WOW, O--YOU'RE TWO FOR TWO.

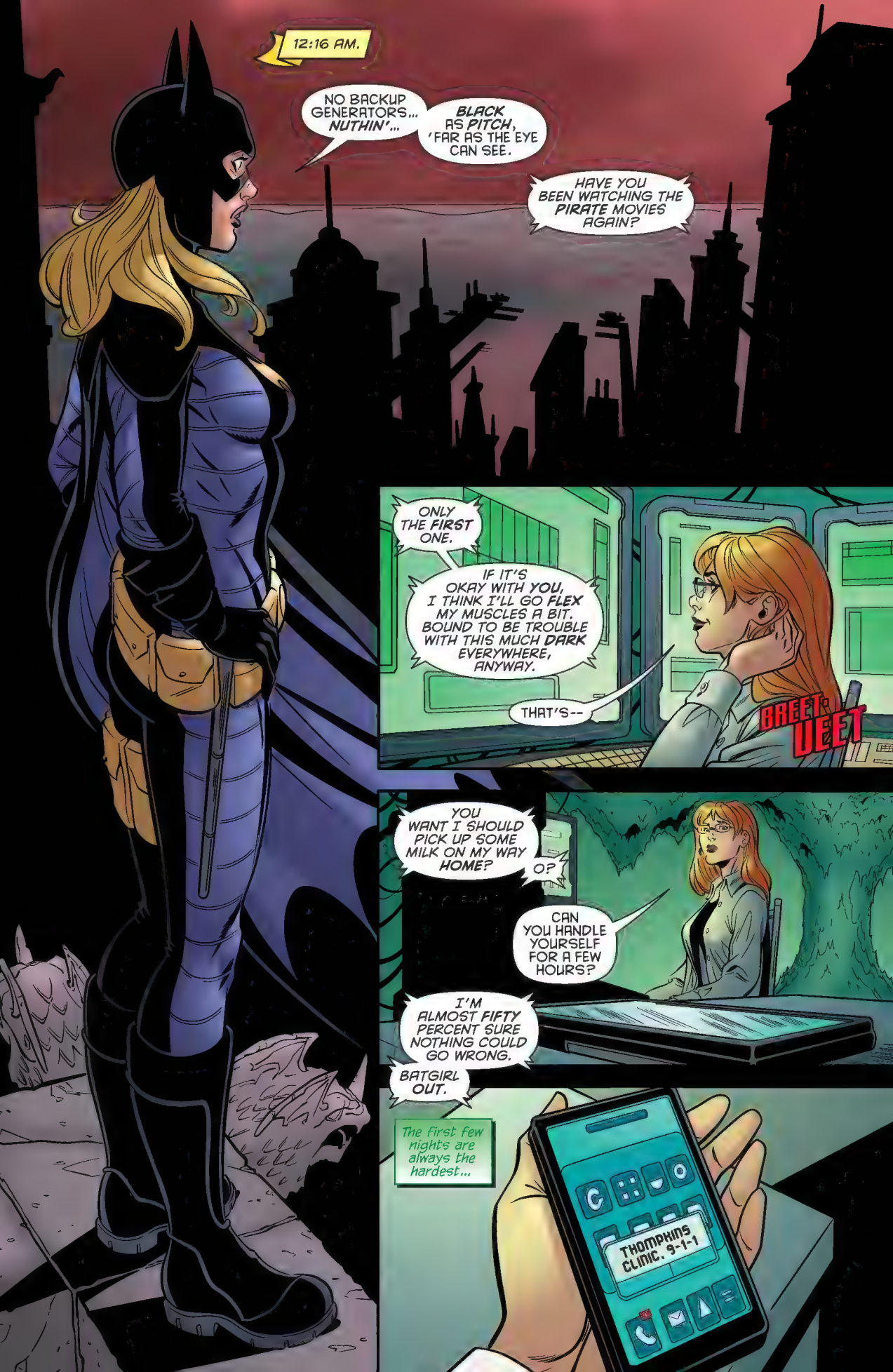
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
UM... THANKS.
Of course, a lot can happen in a week.
CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?
SURE.


KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

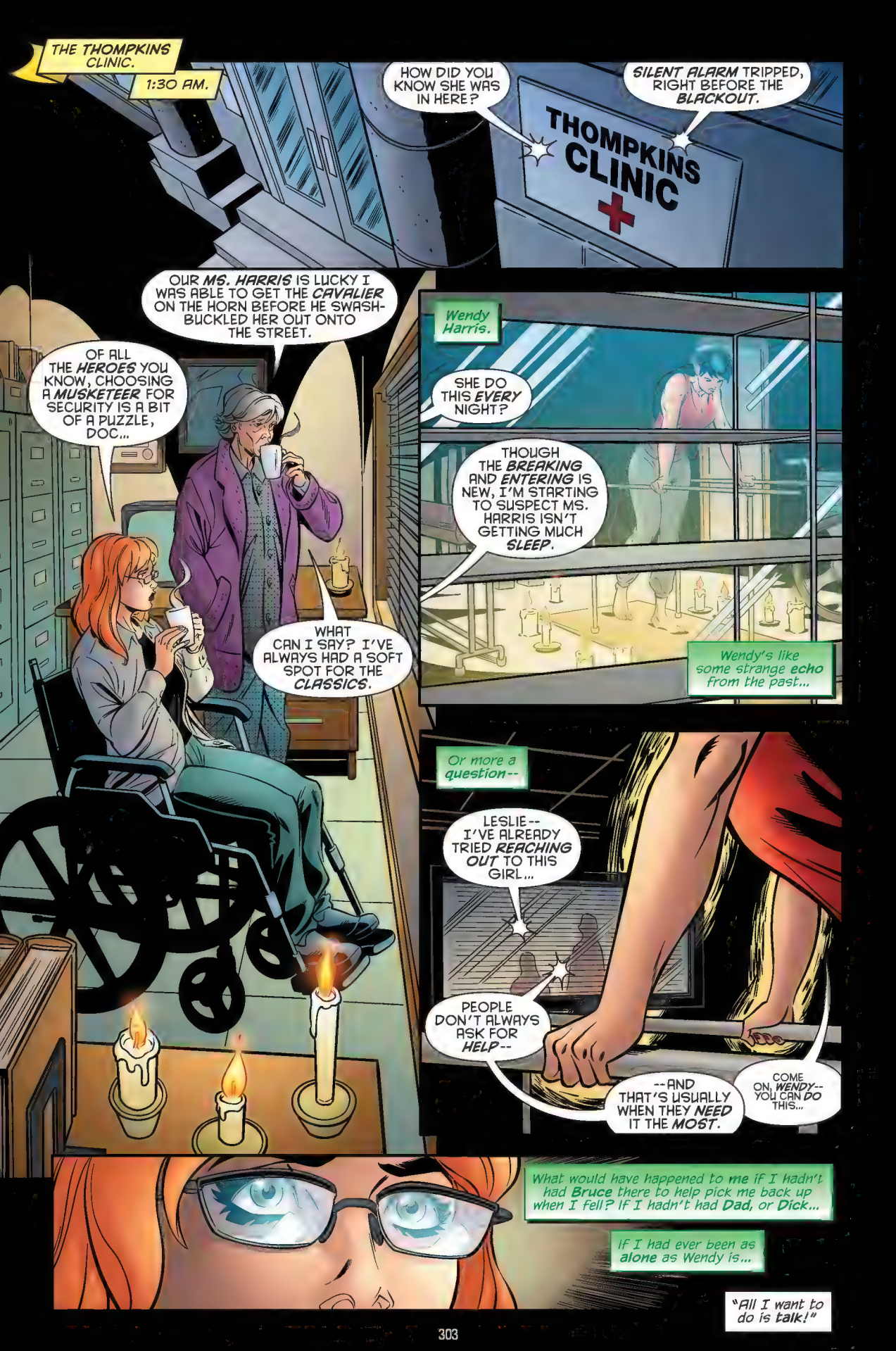
Positive reinforcement for the hero gig...
Not sure what the hell to do with that.

CHOOM!
BATGIRL--

KEEP HER SAFE TONIGHT.
POOT


12:16 AM.
NO BACKUP GENERATORS... NUTHIN'...
BLACK AS PITCH, 'FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.
HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING THE PIRATE MOVIES AGAIN?
ONLY THE FIRST ONE.
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I THINK I'LL GO FLEX MY MUSCLES A BIT. BOUND TO BE TROUBLE WITH THIS MUCH DARK EVERYWHERE, ANYWAY.
THAT'S--
BEEP-UEET
YOU WANT I SHOULD PICK UP SOME MILK ON MY WAY HOME?
O?
CAN YOU HANDLE YOURSELF FOR A FEW HOURS?
I'M ALMOST FIFTY PERCENT SURE NOTHING COULD GO WRONG.
BATGIRL OUT.
The first few nights are always the hardest...
THOMPKINS CLINIC, 9-1-1

GOTHAM P.D. HQ.
1:01 AM.
HEY, JIM--NOT REALLY SURE HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO FILE MY REPORT IF THE COMPUTERS AREN'T WORKING.
NICK, I'LL OWN UP TO MY AGE, WHEN I SAY--
"IN OLDEN TIMES" WE HAD A WONDERMENT CALLED CARBON PAPER AND AN ARCHIVE ROOM THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD.
"NOWADAYS," IF SOMETHING THE SIZE OF SIX ANGELS ON THE HEAD OF A PIN SHORTS OUT, WE'RE LITERALLY IN THE DARK.
SURPRISED YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE A GAS GENERATOR KEEPING THIS PLACE BRIGHT AND CHEERY.
AT MY DAUGHTER'S BEHEST, WE WENT GREEN. SO HERE WE ARE.
YOU KNOW, IT'S ADORABLE YOU LET DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL HAVE HER WAY.
SHE'S A FORCE OF NATURE. GRAB YOUR COAT.
JUST BECAUSE THE POWER'S OUT DOESN'T MEAN THE PHONES STOP RINGING.
WE GOT A RED BALL OUT AT MONARCH MEADOWS.
OOH-- GIMME A SEC TO WORK UP A GOOD BASEBALL ZINGER...
LEAVE IT IN THE BULLPEN.
AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO JUMP IN WITH STUFF LIKE THAT.
OLD HABITS, DETECTIVE.


THE THOMPKINS CLINIC.
1:30 AM.
HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS IN HERE?
SILENT ALARM TRIPPED, RIGHT BEFORE THE BLACKOUT.
THOMPKINS CLINIC
OUR MS. HARRIS IS LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO GET THE CAVALIER ON THE HORN BEFORE HE SWASH-BUCKLED HER OUT ONTO THE STREET.
OF ALL THE HEROES YOU KNOW, CHOOSING A MUSKETEER FOR SECURITY IS A BIT OF A PUZZLE, DOC...
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'VE ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR THE CLASSICS.
Wendy Harris.
SHE DO THIS EVERY NIGHT?
THOUGH THE BREAKING AND ENTERING IS NEW, I'M STARTING TO SUSPECT MS. HARRIS ISN'T GETTING MUCH SLEEP.
Wendy's like some strange echo from the past...
Or more a question--
LESLIE-- I'VE ALREADY TRIED REACHING OUT TO THIS GIRL...
PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP--
--AND THAT'S USUALLY WHEN THEY NEED IT THE MOST.
COME ON, WENDY-- YOU CAN DO THIS...
What would have happened to me if I hadn't had Bruce there to help pick me back up when I fell? If I hadn't had Dad, or Dick...
If I had ever been as alone as Wendy is...
"All I want to do is talk!"

NEAR SKID ROW.
2:07 AM.
-PANT-
-PANT-
-PANT-
GUESS YOU REALLY CALLED MY BLUFF, HUH?
Okay, Steph--
this again?
PING
TAG.

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

SERIOUSLY, DUDE--IT'S A *PURSE*, NOT *FORT KNOX*.

THOK

Fine--I'll admit I *might* need to work on my *wrecking ball* a little bit...

AIEEEE!

LITTLE BIT OF *ALOE* ON THERE AND YOU SHOULD BE *ALL* BETTER.

=GRUNT=

PROBABLY.

WE DO THIS AGAIN, I'LL MAKE SURE TO BRING A *FIRE EXTINGUISHER*.

Now who's the Damsel in Dist--

CRAP.

CAROLINE'S DINER.

2:41 AM.

EXPLAIN TO ME *AGAIN* HOW I GOT *MUGGED* IN FRONT OF A *COP* RESTAURANT. *DO* TELL.

ALL I WANTED WAS A CUP OF COFFEE, AND THE MUGGER TOOK *THAT*, TOO.

ALL RIGHT, MS. BROWN.

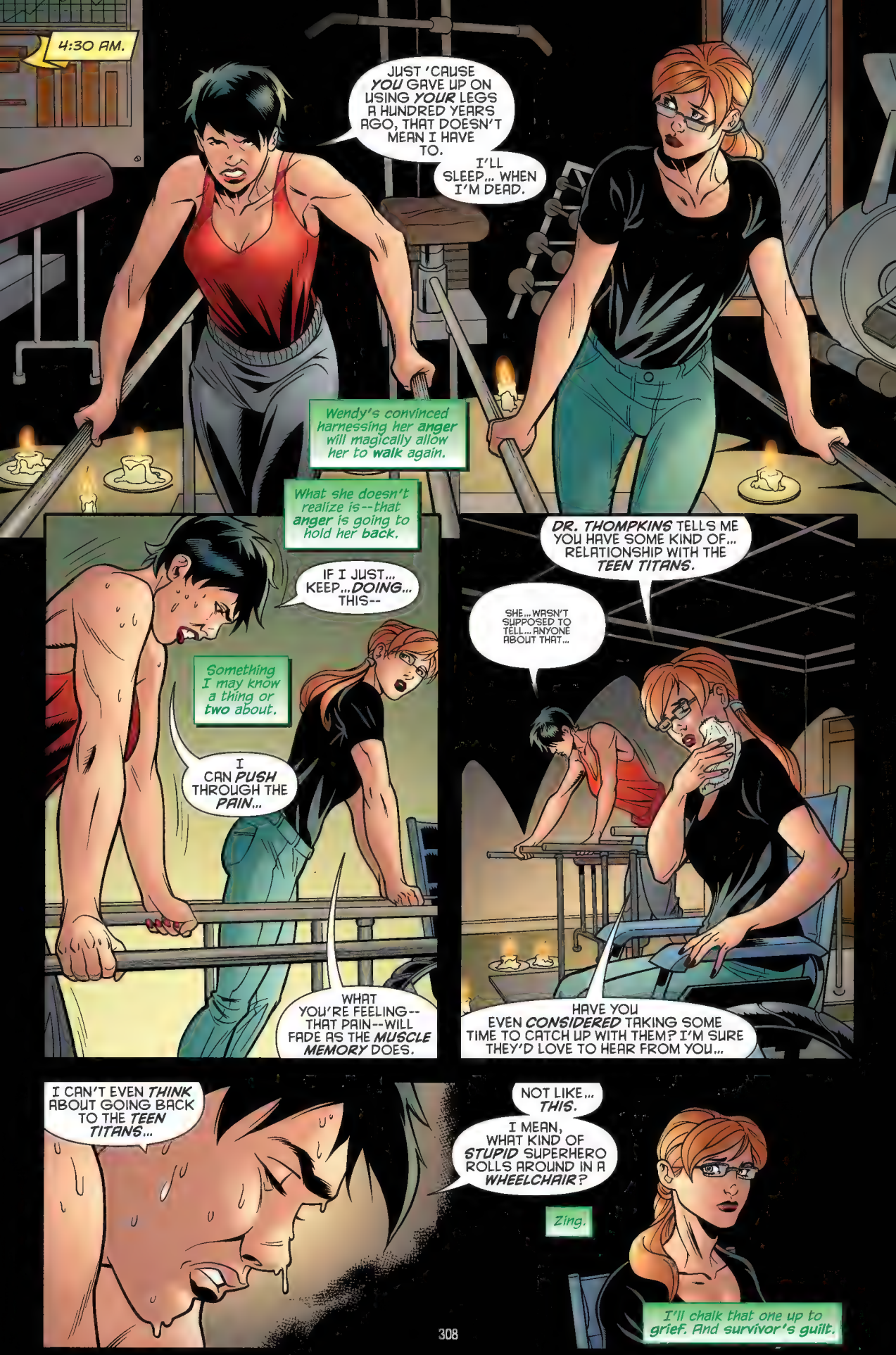
AND WHAT DID THE PURSE *LOOK* LIKE?

WHAP

UM... *THAT*?

MONARCH MEADOWS.
3:15 AM.
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
LUCKILY, THE MONARCHS DON'T SHARE YOUR DAUGHTER'S VIEWS ON CONSERVATION.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS OUR FRIENDLY CORPSE DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
MORE IMPORTANT, HOW? NO TRACKS, THE GRASS IS UNTOUCHED...
THAT'S BECAUSE NO ONE LEFT HIM HERE, JIM...
HE FELL...
...BOUNCED OFF THE LIGHT GRID.
DEAD BODIES DON'T JUST FALL OUT OF THE SKY.
NO, THEY DON'T, DETECTIVE...
BUT I THINK WE'RE GETTING A MUCH BETTER IDEA WHY THE POWER HASN'T COME BACK ON YET...
GOTHAM D.W.P.
I'm just about done with this unending-perpetual-darkness thing.

4:05 AM.
I just watched two guys stealing TVs run into one another.
Sadly, both televisions were lost...
On the bright side, they'll each have a friend in jail...
I wasn't cracking with Mom earlier...
I do actually have a ton of Computer Science homework to do.
And I have no doubt Babs will let me slide.
Too early for sunrise...
Guess break time's over...
"No one would blame you if you decided to just lie down for a little while..."


4:30 AM.
JUST 'CAUSE YOU GAVE UP ON USING YOUR LEGS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO.
I'LL SLEEP... WHEN I'M DEAD.
Wendy's convinced harnessing her anger will magically allow her to walk again.
What she doesn't realize is--that anger is going to hold her back.
IF I JUST... KEEP...DOING... THIS--
Something I may know a thing or two about.
I CAN PUSH THROUGH THE PAIN...
WHAT YOU'RE FEELING--THAT PAIN--WILL FADE AS THE MUSCLE MEMORY DOES.
DR. THOMPKINS TELLS ME YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF... RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEEN TITANS.
SHE... WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL... ANYONE ABOUT THAT...
HAVE YOU EVEN CONSIDERED TAKING SOME TIME TO CATCH UP WITH THEM? I'M SURE THEY'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU...
I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE TEEN TITANS...
NOT LIKE... THIS.
I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF STUPID SUPERHERO ROLLS AROUND IN A WHEELCHAIR?
Zing.
I'll chalk that one up to grief. And survivor's guilt.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE MY BROTHER ANYMORE. I KNOW IF I DID...
NO! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
I DON'T NEED ANYONE!
IF MARVIN WERE HERE...
WHY DID MARVIN HAVE TO GO, TOO?
YOU AREN'T ALONE, WENDY--
NOT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE.

GOTHAM DWP.
DEVIL'S SQUARE BORDER.
4:58 AM.
MAYBE I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH FROM GOTHAM...
'CUZ NOW ALL I TASTE IS...→BLECH← BLUDHAVEN.
KRAKKKZATT
BOOM
YEP-- PRETTY SURE THIS IS WHY THE LIGHTS ARE OFF...
GET ME METROPOLIS M.C.U. ON THE HORN, NOW!
HEY, YOU!
WHAT THE HELL IS LIVEWIRE DOING HERE? THIS ISN'T EVEN HER TOWN!
SWIT
DAMN RIGHT IT AIN'T!
"HEY, YOU"?
WHAT?
NO ONE RAISES AN EYEBROW WHEN YOU TALK TO BATMAN.
I'M PRETTY SURE BATMAN'S LEGAL, DETECTIVE.

Maybe these will be enough to distract her...
SWHIP
SWHIP
SWHIP
SWHIP
YOU DO KNOW I FIGHT SUPERMAN, RIGHT?
Or not.
FZT
FZT
FZT
FZT
OH, YOU'RE THAT "LIVEWIRE"...
SNAP
Nice one. Steph...
SPA-KACK
Piss off the gal who can throw thunderbolts...

What would... anyone else do in this situation?
thebootswillprotect mwankiesthebootsw protectmy...
PINK
TIK
TIK
NOOOOOOOOO!
TIK
TIK
TIK
FWOOOOSH
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO OVERSLEEP NOW? WAS THAT YOUR "VILLAINOUS" SCHEME?
SWEETIE-- YOU MIGHT BE QUICK...
BUT YOU'RE NOT FASTER THAN...

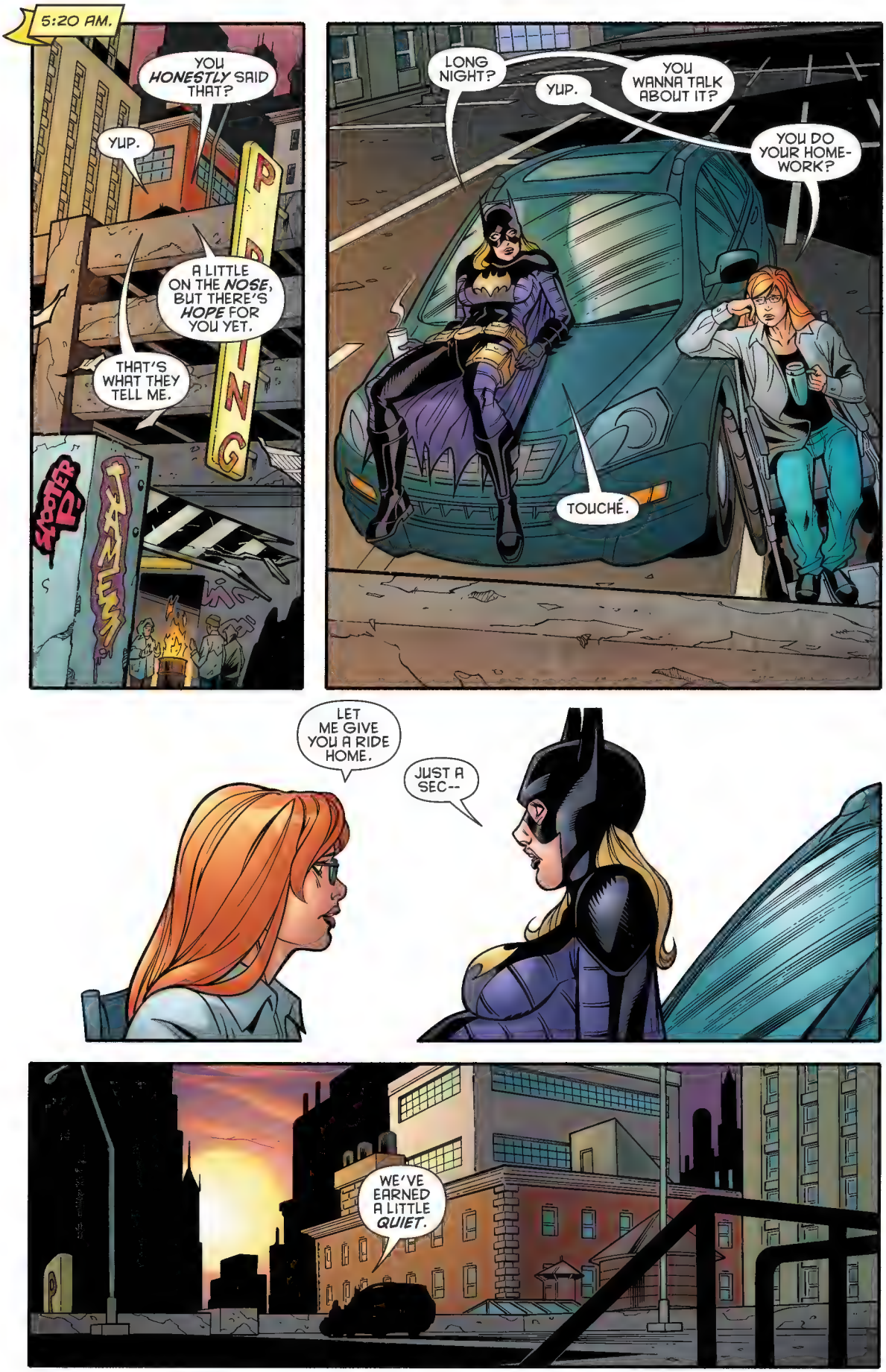
LIGHT--
crapcrap-crapcrap

NIIIIIIIII--

INNNNNN-NNNNNG.
Hmk.

GUESS THE SUIT THERE IS *INSULATED*, HUH?
APPARENTLY. EVERY NIGHT'S A NEW *ADVENTURE*, YOU KNOW?
YOU GONNA PUNCH ME NOW?

"That shouldn't come as much of a **shock**"?


5:20 AM.
YOU HONESTLY SAID THAT?
YUP.
A LITTLE ON THE NOSE, BUT THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET.
THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL ME.
LONG NIGHT?
YUP.
YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?
YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK?
TOUCHÉ.
LET ME GIVE YOU A RIDE HOME.
JUST A SEC--
WE'VE EARNED A LITTLE QUIET.

THE BROWN RESIDENCE.
6:00 AM.
RISE AND SHINE...
PECK
FIVE MORE MINUTES...
THE FIRST FEW NIGHTS ARE ALWAYS THE HARDEST.
THE END

DC
13
BATGIRL
BRYAN Q. MILLER
PERE PEREZ
OH, THAT'S JUST GROSS!
MANIACAL MUD-SLINGING!

GOTHAM U.

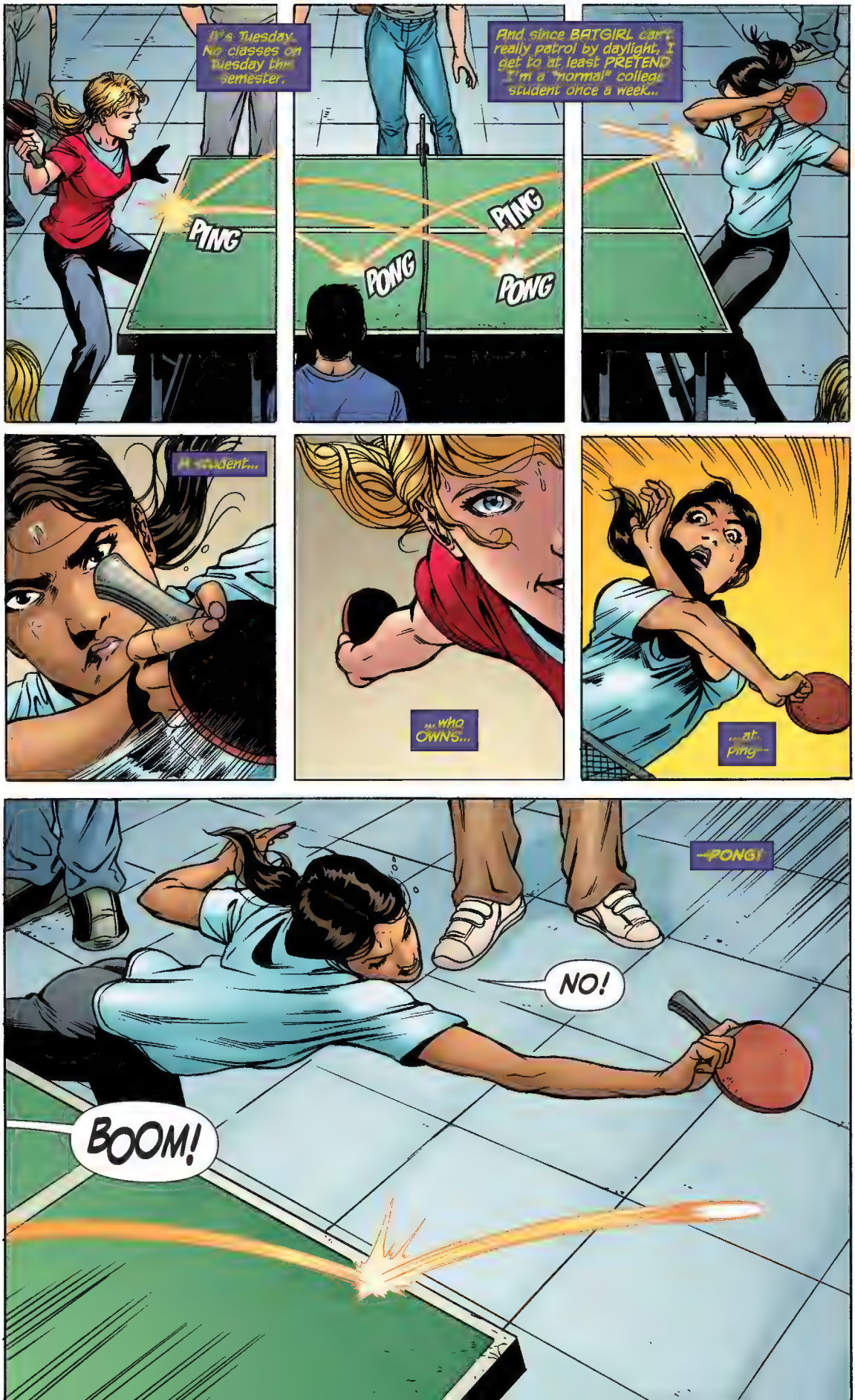
2ND SEMESTER...

NEVER STOPPED ME BEFORE!

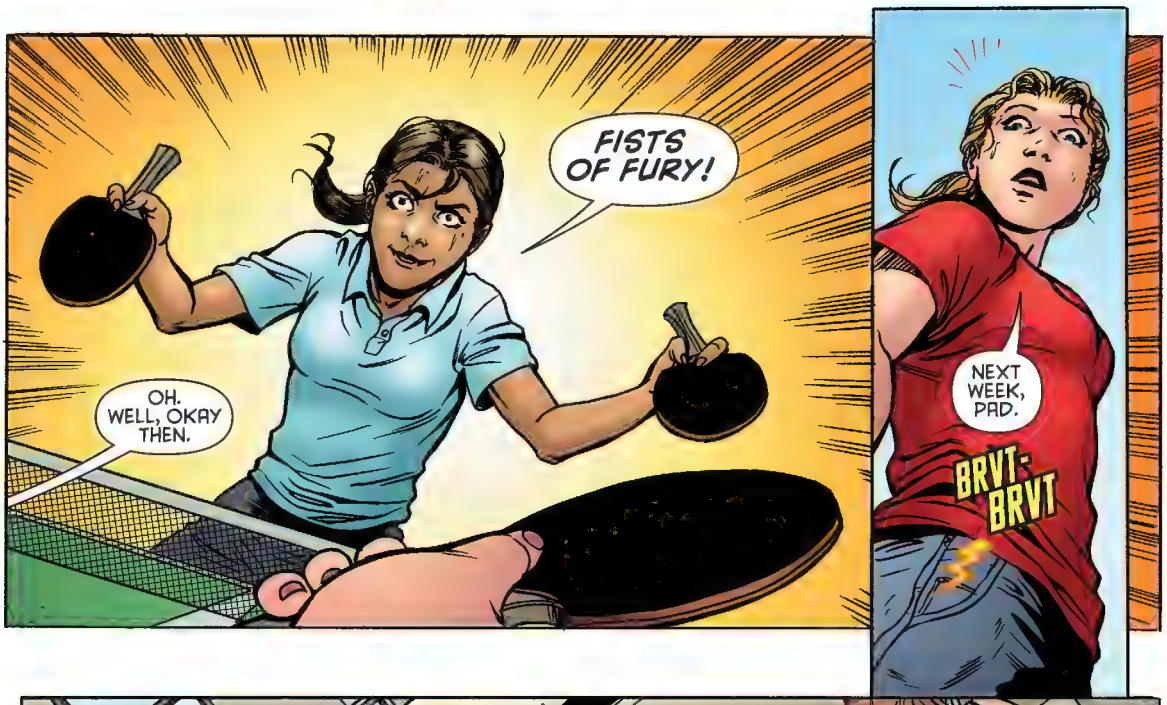
GOTHAM UNIVERSITY

WHAP

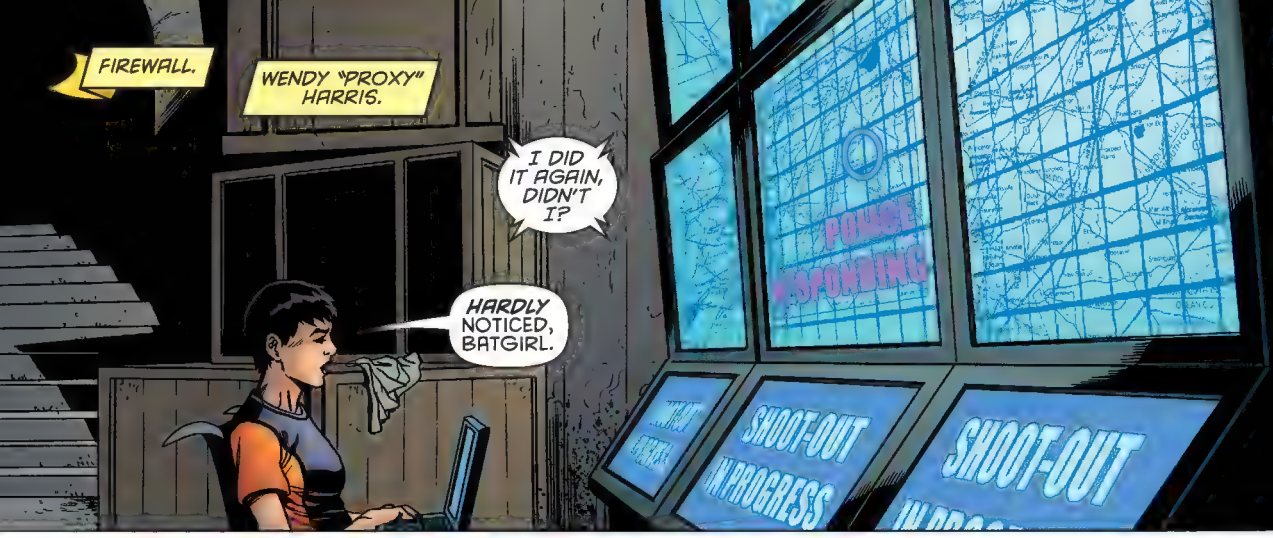
KIPSTHA


It's Tuesday. No classes on Tuesday this semester.
PING
And since BATGIRL can't really patrol by daylight, I get to at least PRETEND I'm a "normal" college student once a week...
PING
PONG
PONG
A student...
...who OWNS...
...at ping...
PONG!
NO!
BOOM!

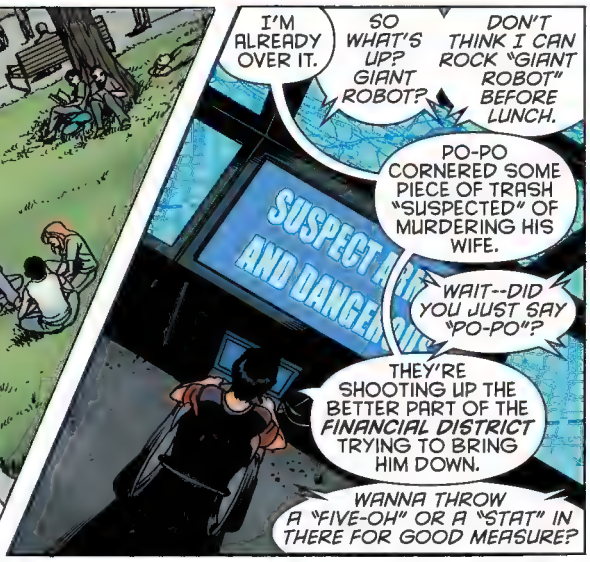
COME ON, PADMA--TWENTY SERVING NINETEEN.
AND DON'T CHEAT, PAD. YOU ALWAYS CHEAT.
PREPARE FOR THE STUDENT TO BECOME THE MASTER.
RUFFLE RUFFLE
WE'RE PLAYING BEST OF SEVEN AND I'M WINNING. SO UNLESS YOU'RE SAYING I'M THE STUDENT--


FISTS OF FURY!
OH. WELL, OKAY THEN.
NEXT WEEK, PAD.
BRVT-BRVT

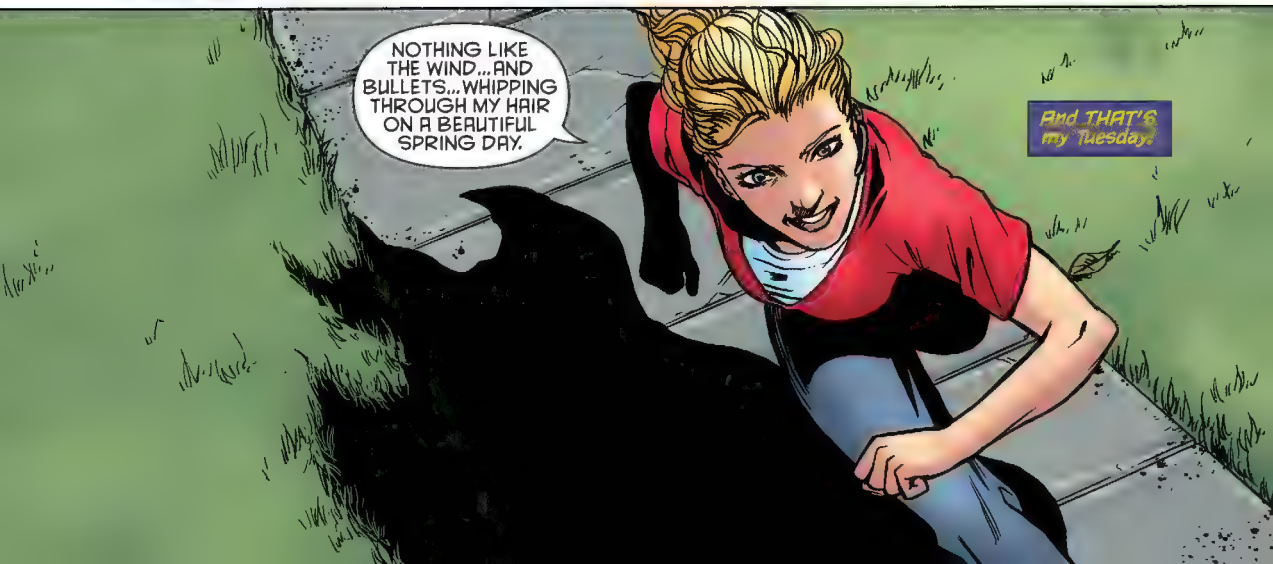
OH, COME ON! "FISTS OF FURY"!
I'VE BEEN WAITING THE WHOLE GAME TO GO DOUBLE PADDLE!
CAN'T BEAR TO GO A DAY WITHOUT ME, HUH, O?
TRY AGAIN.


FIREWALL.
WENDY "PROXY" HARRIS.
I DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T I?
HARDLY NOTICED, BATGIRL.
POLICE RESPONDING
SHOOT-OUT IN PROGRESS
SHOOT-OUT

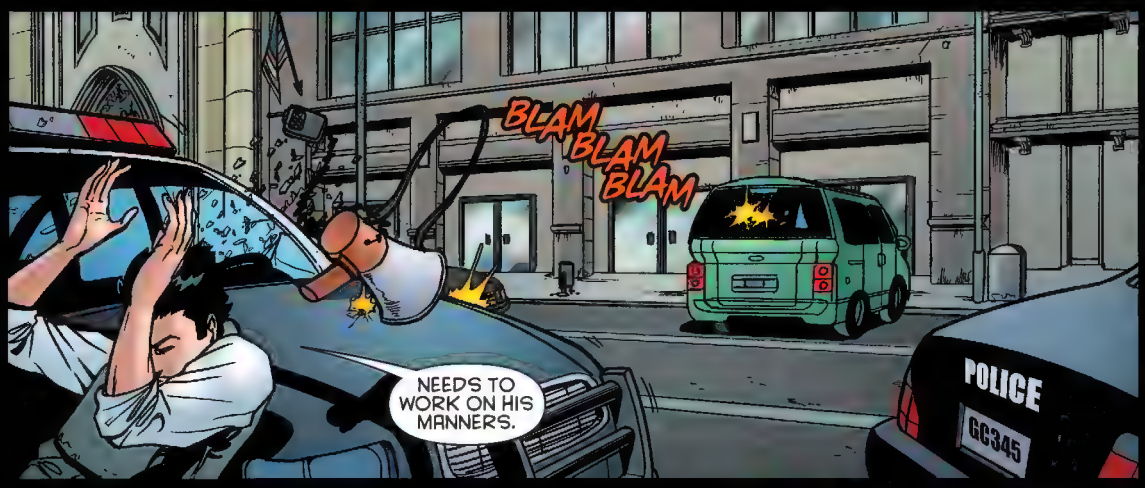
WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!
ORACLE'S ON SOME BIRDS-RELATED BUSINESS TODAY.
Way to make the NEW girl feel WELCOME, Steph.
PROXY... SO SORRY.
MAYBE I CAN PUT A DIFFERENT RING TONE ON THE BATPHONE OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
OR WE CAN HAVE A CHORUS SHOUT "SHE'S NOT ORACLE!" AT ME EVERY TIME I DO THIS.


I'M ALREADY OVER IT.
SO WHAT'S UP? GIANT ROBOT?
DON'T THINK I CAN ROCK "GIANT ROBOT" BEFORE LUNCH.
PO-PO CORNERED SOME PIECE OF TRASH "SUSPECTED" OF MURDERING HIS WIFE.
WAIT--DID YOU JUST SAY "PO-PO"?
THEY'RE SHOOTING UP THE BETTER PART OF THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT TRYING TO BRING HIM DOWN.
WANNA THROW A "FIVE-OH" OR A "STAT" IN THERE FOR GOOD MEASURE?

WAIT, DID YOU SAY "FINANCIAL DISTRICT"? AND I'M THE CLOSEST BAT TO RESPOND?
I CHECKED ORACLE'S NETWORK FEED--EVERYONE ELSE IS OCCUPIED. THIS ONE'S ALL YOU, BATGIRL.


NOTHING LIKE THE WIND... AND BULLETS... WHIPPING THROUGH MY HAIR ON A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY.
And THAT'S my Tuesday.

THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT.
MR. GRISWALD, JUST COME ON OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.
YOU'RE SHOOTING UP THE ONE NICE BLOCK IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
OKAY, FINE, YOU GOT ME.
...
PRETTY PLEASE?
POLICE
GC345


BLAM BLAM BLAM
NEEDS TO WORK ON HIS MANNERS.
POLICE
GC345

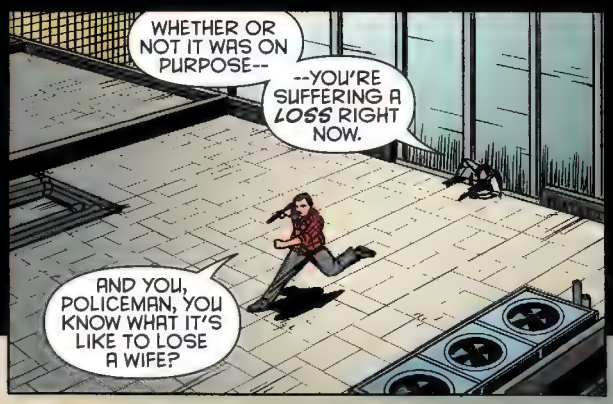
DETECTIVE GAGE, REPORT.
WELL, JIM, I ASKED HIM NICELY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
VERY FUNNY, DETECTIVE. JUST PUT AN END TO THIS.
GCPD
GCPD

GO-GO-GO
THE CITY JUST FINISHED RENOVATING THAT BLOCK.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
911
911
POLICE

DETECTIVE GAGE, SWAT IS MOVING IN.
BANG
BOOM
OH GOD!
LOOK OUT!
HE'S ON FOOT!

REPEAT, OFFICERS DOWN!
IN PURSUIT OF SUSPECT!

LOOK, MR. GRISWALD-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN!
MAYBE YOU AND YOUR WIFE HAD AN ARGUMENT. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T.


WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS ON PURPOSE--
--YOU'RE SUFFERING A LOSS RIGHT NOW.
AND YOU, POLICEMAN, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A WIFE?

CLICK

THEN I SHALL GIVE YOU THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL...

REUNION!
SORRY, BABE...
DON'T APOLOGIZE--

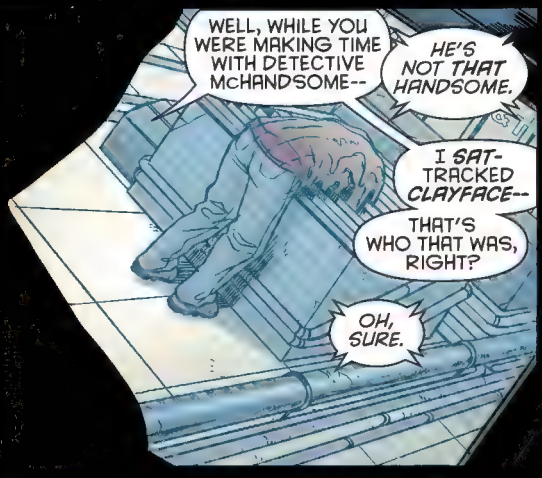
BATGIRL: TRUST

BRYAN Q. MILLER WRITER PERE PEREZ ART GUY MAJOR COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERER STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU COVER
HARVEY RICHARDS ASST. EDITOR MICHAEL SIGLAIN & SEAN RYAN EDITORS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

THANKS?
DON'T THANK ME, THANK PHYSICS.
THANKS, PHYSICS.
WEIRD TO SEE YOU IN DAYLIGHT.
I ♥ MONTOYA!
CHOUITO
SAME HERE. LUCKY FOR YOU, I HAD THE DAY OFF.

NICK OF TIME, HUH?
WHAT? OH, I GET IT, SINCE YOUR NAME IS--
S'WHAT I WAS GOIN' FOR. GUESS I LIVE TO BE LAME ANOTHER DAY.
Please be less attractive.
->SKRRT!<- YOU TWO WANT A ROOM OR--

OVER HERE!
SHUT UP, PROXY.
WHAT?
NOTHING!


WELL, WHILE YOU WERE MAKING TIME WITH DETECTIVE McHANDSOME--
HE'S NOT THAT HANDSOME.
I SAT-TRACKED CLAYFACE--
THAT'S WHO THAT WAS, RIGHT?
OH, SURE.

POOT
GOTHAM BANK & TRUST.
I'M ON IT!
YOU'RE ON WHAT?

CLAYFACE IS HITTING GOTHAM BANK & TRUST.
SET UP A PERIMETER OR... SOMETHING!
YOU HEARD THE LADY. LET'S MOVE!

THIS IS WHERE YOU LOST HIM?
THIS IS WHERE I LOST HIM.
SAT THERMALS OVERLAP DOWN BELOW. TOO MANY SIGNATURES.
GOTHAM BANK & TRUST.
BANK & TRUST
FANTASTIC.
WHYEVER HE DID WHAT HE DID, CLAYFACE STILL KILLED THAT WOMAN. AND, OSTENSIBLY, THE HUSBAND, TOO. WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
HE COULD BE ANYONE. CAN YOU LOCK THE BANK DOWN?
ACCESS DENIED
THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM'S TOO--
-HUFF!-
NO. NO, I CAN'T. NOT FROM HERE.
ORACLE SAYS YOU'RE A "FREE THINKER."
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
-SIGH-
JUST MAKE SURE MY MOM DOESN'T FIND OUT IF I GET SHOT, OKAY?

Want to save some MONEY?

POP
Want to save some MONEY?

LOCKDOWN INITIATED
YES
REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.
LOCKDOWN. INITIATED. REMAIN. CALM.

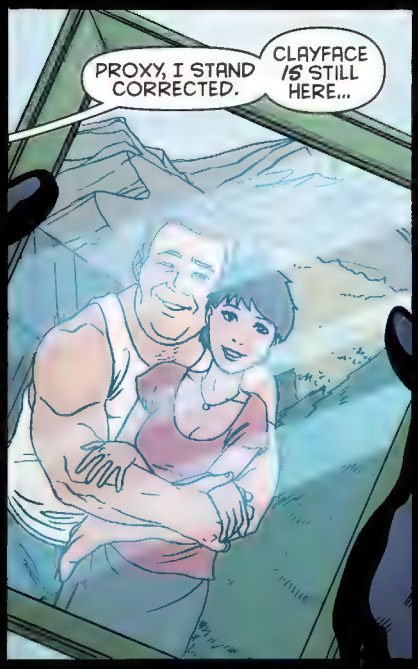
REALLY SORRY...

Go, gooperang go!
STOP OR WE'LL--
GOOP
ACK!
SHE'S ROBBING THE BANK!
I'M NOT TRYING TO ROB THE BANK! EVERYONE JUST STAY--
OH, GOD.
SWIT
SWIT
"OH, GOD" WHAT?

AS IN "OH, GOD HE ISN'T HERE"?
FANTASTIC.
LOOK, IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO THE MANAGER, SHE JUST WENT DOWN TO THE VAULT.

GOTHAM BANK & TRUST
IT'S PROCEDURE. IN THE EVENT OF A ROBBERY, YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH MRS. GRISWALD.
FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M NOT TRYING TO ROB--WAIT, DID YOU SAY "GRISWALD"?

THAT'S AMELIE, RIGHT THERE IN THAT PICTURE. LET ME JUST GO DOWNSTAIRS AND--
MR. TELLER, YOU NEED TO KEEP EVERYONE UP HERE, UNDERSTAND?
MANAGER


PROXY, I STAND CORRECTED.
CLAYFACE IS STILL HERE...

VAULT ACCESS.
BELOW THE BANK...
IDENTITY.SCAN. INITIATED.
ALMOST THERE.
CLAYFACE!
SIGH!
ONLY KNOWN...
...FOR THE ROLES THAT I PLAY.
SQUISH
GAH!
OKAY, FINE. "KARLO"--WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
RECLAIMING SOMETHING I'VE LOST.
YOU'VE ALREADY MURDERED TWO PEOPLE TO GET TO IT.
HOW MANY MORE HAVE TO DIE?
JUST ONE.
BLARGH
NOW LEAVE ME TO MY WORK, CHILD.

CONFIRMING. IDENTITY.
SKZRT
CHILD--
ENOUGH!
I'VE MADE HIM ANGRY. THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
KEEP MOVING. KEEP HIM DISTRACTED. IMMOBILIZE HIM AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.
IS THAT ALL, PROX? YOU WANT ME TO TEACH HIM FRENCH, TOO?
YOU KNOW, CLAY--CAN I CALL YOU "CLAY"?
PRETTY SURE YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR "DEAD BATGIRL" WISH IF WE DON'T CHANGE VENUES, HERE.
SMASH
SO HAPPY YOU AGREE?
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.

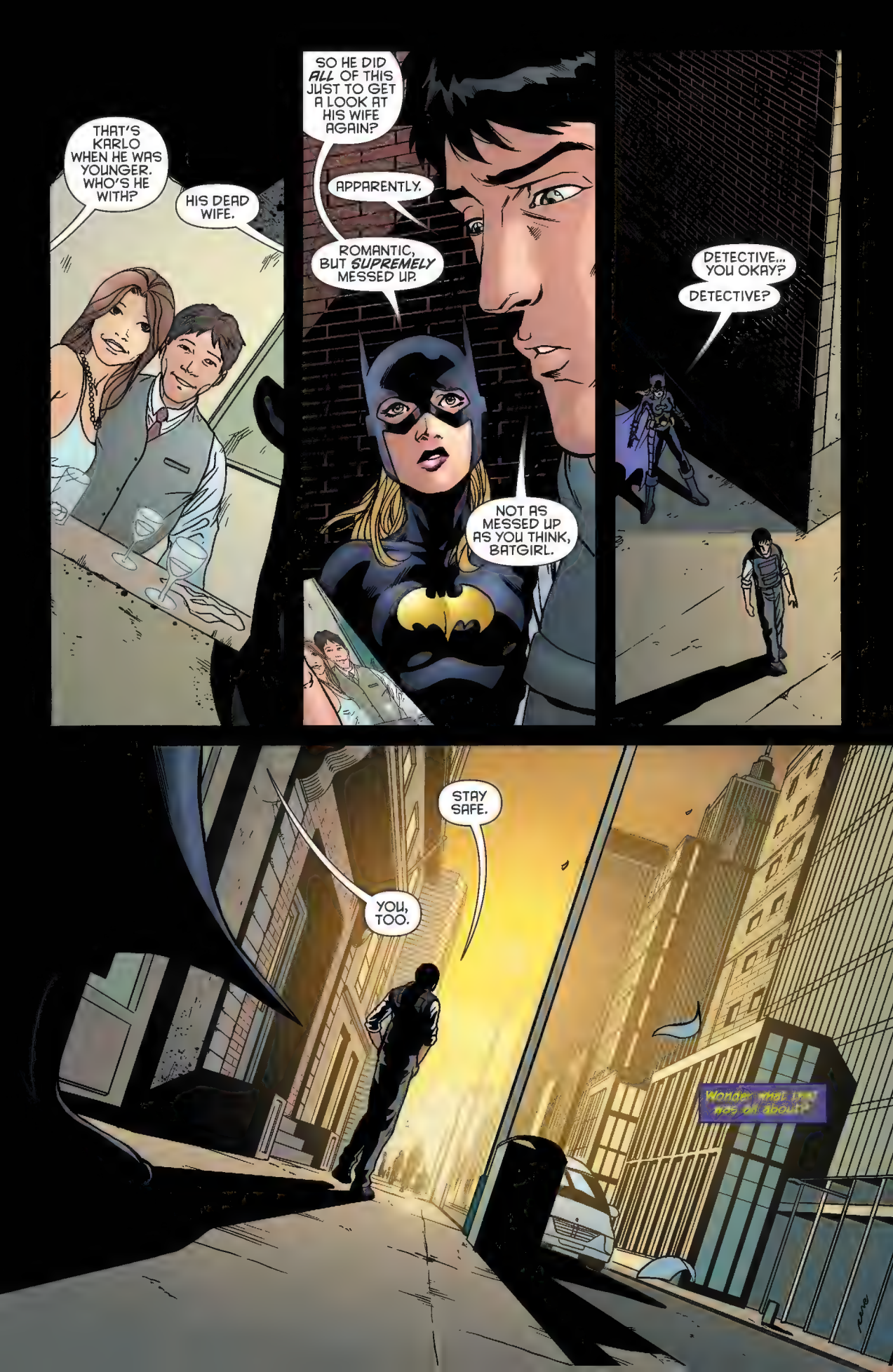
SHE WASN'T TRYING TO ROB THE BANK. WHERE DID SHE GO?
DOWN--
BOOM
OW!
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE FREAKIN' KIDDIN' ME.
WHAT IS IT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT CLICHES?
SHOOT HER!
Okay, Steph— got any other BAD plans?
SERIOUSLY? NO, REALLY. SERIOUSLY?
Yes. There's ALWAYS another bad plan.

SHOOT ME.
DO WHAT NOW?
SHOOT. ME.
I'LL. BLEED.
BANG
SPLAT

BANGBANG BANG
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
NO CHANCE HE'D STAY DOWN, HUH?
NOT REALLY, NO.
I'M ALL OUT. WHAT DO YA GOT?
A UTILITY BELT FULL OF CRAP AND A POSITIVE OUTLOOK?
I SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
SPAT
NEVER SAID THE MAGIC WORD, CLAY.
HOW "RUDE" OF ME.
HEY, PROX-- ANY OTHER THOUGHTS ON THAT WHOLE "IMMOBILIZE" THING?
YOU USED THE GOOP?
I USED THE GOOP.
USE YOUR... SURROUNDINGS?
GAH

When in Rome...
'KAY, MR. POLICEMAN, QUIP'S TO YOU!
UM...
KER-ACKK!
"...FREEZE!"
LITTLE LATE, BUT NICE EFFORT.
UP TOP.
I DON'T THINK SO.
DON'T LEAVE A GIRL HANGIN'.
NOPE.
PROXY, SUCCESS-- LET'S GET SOMEBODY IN HERE TO CLEAN THIS UP.
WILL DO.
WE GOT, LIKE, A PHONE LIST FOR THAT KIND OF THING ANYWHERE?

LATER...
ARKHAM ASYLUM
COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU DIDN'T SHOOT ME.
FIGURED ONLY THE REAL YOU WOULD HAVE SUCH A BAD IDEA.
WORKED, DIDN'T IT?
AND BECAUSE I TRUST YOU. FOR WHATEVER REASON.
Stephanie, don't you dare... Batgirls don't... okay, fine.
Squee!
Now that THAT's out of the way...
ANY IDEA WHAT HE WAS AFTER?
TURNS OUT BASIL KARLO HAD AN OLD SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX DOWN IN THE VAULT. HE NEEDED THE LATE MRS. GRISWALD'S CLEARANCE TO GET IN.
WHAT WAS INSIDE?
SOMETHING FROM HIS OLD LIFE, SOMETHING FROM BEFORE... EVERYTHING.


THAT'S KARLO WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER. WHO'S HE WITH?
HIS DEAD WIFE.
SO HE DID ALL OF THIS JUST TO GET A LOOK AT HIS WIFE AGAIN?
APPARENTLY.
ROMANTIC, BUT SUPREMELY MESSED UP.
NOT AS MESSED UP AS YOU THINK, BATGIRL.
DETECTIVE... YOU OKAY?
DETECTIVE?
STAY SAFE.
YOU, TOO.
Wonder what that was all about?

Stephanie Brown's time as Batgirl was brief but memorable.

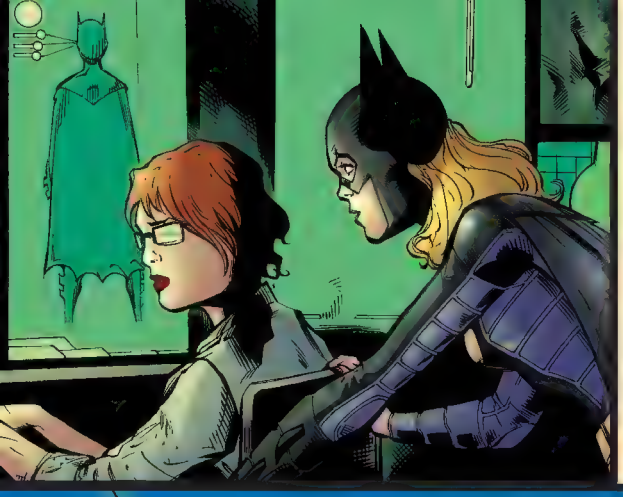
She was the daughter of the Cluemaster, an inept costumed villain whose crime sprees were always failures. Stephanie decided that the best way to stop her father's hapless criminal career was to don a purple costume and call herself the Spoiler. With her new identity, she spoiled her father's schemes by leaving clues with the police.

Stephanie was a skilled martial artist, and she enjoyed her new life as the Spoiler. She teamed up with Robin (Tim Drake) to fight crime and occasionally flirt. Although Tim resisted at first, their relationship soon blossomed into a romance.

The Spoiler also fought alongside Cassandra Cain during her time as Batgirl, and the two developed a close friendship. When it appeared to everyone that Batman was dead, Cassandra relinquished the role of Batgirl and bequeathed it to Stephanie.

Oracle fashioned a new Batgirl costume for Stephanie and tried to mentor her, but Stephanie was impulsive and headstrong. Oracle had to concede, though, that Stephanie was a fearless crime-fighter who bravely battled some of Gotham's deadliest foes, including the Scarecrow and the Black Mask.

The one obstacle Stephanie couldn't overcome was DC's 2011 "New 52" overhaul, which completely wiped out her history as Batgirl. Luckily, though, she returned as the Spoiler in 2014.



DC COMICS™
THE NEW 52! #0
BATGIRL™
GAIL SIMONE
ED BENES

FOUR YEARS AGO...

So, here's the thing.

Every daughter wants her dad to be a white knight.

Every daughter wants her father to be Lancelot.

The difference, in my case?

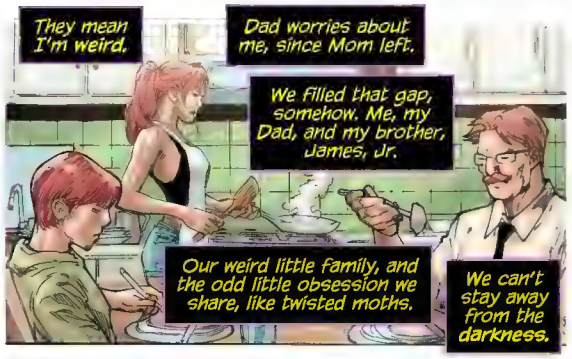
HERO COP SAVES MAYOR

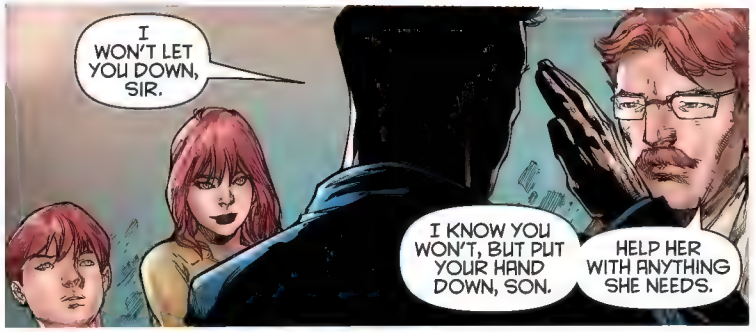
I actually do have that guy for a dad.

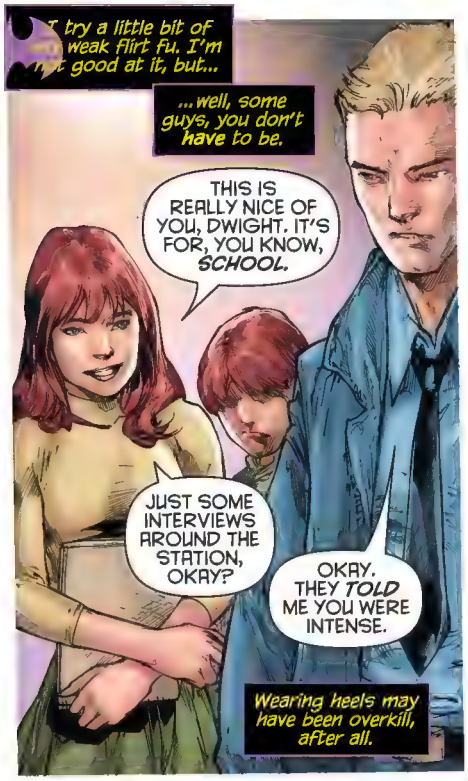
KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT FOILED BY GOTHAM'S FINEST

HERO COP SAVES MAYOR

And he is always going to be my hero.






I try a little bit of weak flirt fu. I'm not good at it, but...
...well, some guys, you don't have to be.
THIS IS REALLY NICE OF YOU, DWIGHT. IT'S FOR, YOU KNOW, SCHOOL.
JUST SOME INTERVIEWS AROUND THE STATION, OKAY?
OKAY. THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE INTENSE.
Wearing heels may have been overkill, after all.

There's that word again.
I GUESS WE COULD START WITH THE EVIDENCE LOCKER.
YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING, BARBARA.
ME? NEVER.
YES.
YOU GONNA RAT, JAMES?

I'M A SPHINX.
I NEVER TELL ANYONE ANYTHING.

And soon, we are speaking to every dear old geezer and broken-down beat cop in the building.
NOW, SEE, WHEN WE GET EVIDENCE ON A PENDING CASE THAT'S GOING TO TRIAL, THAT'S A BLUE DOCKET FORM...
Dwight, you're sweet.
But you have no idea what's really going on.
FASCINATING.

HEY, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
Bingo.
OH. THOSE POOR JERKS ARE INVESTIGATING A MYTH.
THE BAT. THE BATMAN, WHATEVER.
OVER HERE'S THE COMMISSARY...

REALLY. HOW INTERESTING.
MISS GORDON...?
This is what I really came for. The Bat.
Sorry, Dad.
...SO, THE S.W.A.T. GUYS COBBLED THIS THING TOGETHER WITH OUR SKETCH ARTISTS, FROM THE BRIEF, AND MAY I ADD, CRAPPY EYEWITNESS REPORTS.
ALL THAT INHUMAN STUFF, NIGHT VISION, THE BULLETPROOF NONSENSE?
CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS
CHERRY HILL
THE FLOOD
CRIME ALLEY
WE THINK IT'S ALL TECH, ALL OF IT. VARIABLE SPECTRUM GOGGLES, OXYGEN REBREATHER, KEVLAR BODY ARMOR...
OUR BOY'S GOT AN EXTENSIVE WARDROBE, IS WHAT.
HAVE WE A QUESTION FOR THE GROUP, OFFICER RANKIN?
OKAY. HE'S... LOOK, HERE'S MY QUESTION. SOMEONE IS TAKING OUT DRUG DEALERS AND MURDERERS.
HOW IS THIS A BAD THING, DETECTIVE PETERS?
WELL, FOR ONE THING...
...COPYCATS.
YOU WANT A GAGGLE OF FREAKS FOLLOWING THIS GUY'S PLAY?
So he's not magic. He's just smart. Like me.
I knew it.

...speak of the Devil.

I know this guy.

STAY BACK, MISS GORDON.

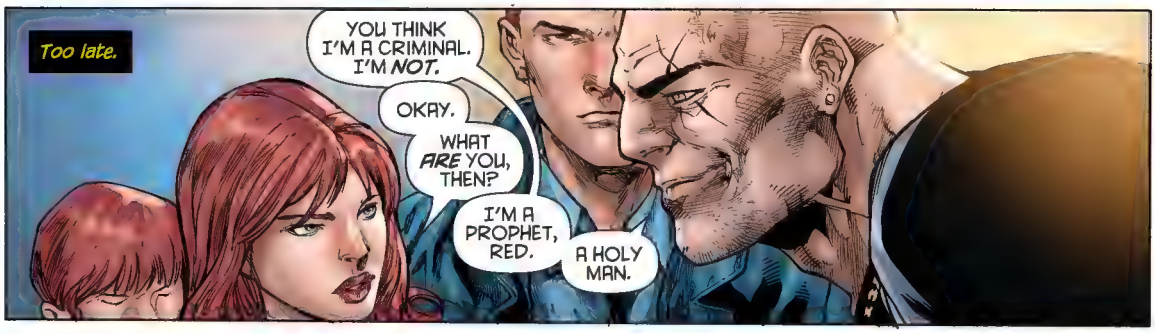
This long stick of walking nightmare calls himself **Harry X,** awaiting possible extradition. He's **Canadian,** of all things.

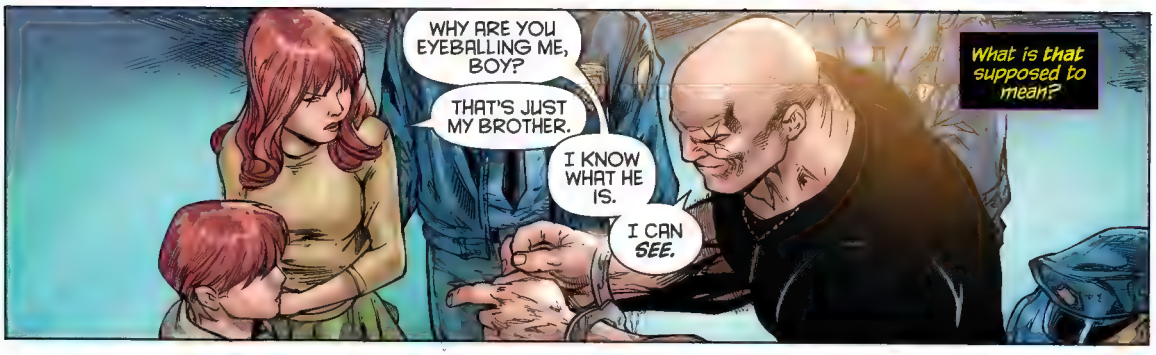
Made his bones in human trafficking...**RCMP** raided his compound while he was vacationing in the States.

Found an abandoned well **full** of missing women from Eastern Europe, all deceased.

All with broken necks... his **signature** move.

His only statement was that the women "gave him sass."
WELL, WELL, WELL... HOLD UP, FELLAS.
AREN'T YOU A JUICY LUCY.
This guy really could be my A+.
And I'm thinking, this is my chance...ask him something!

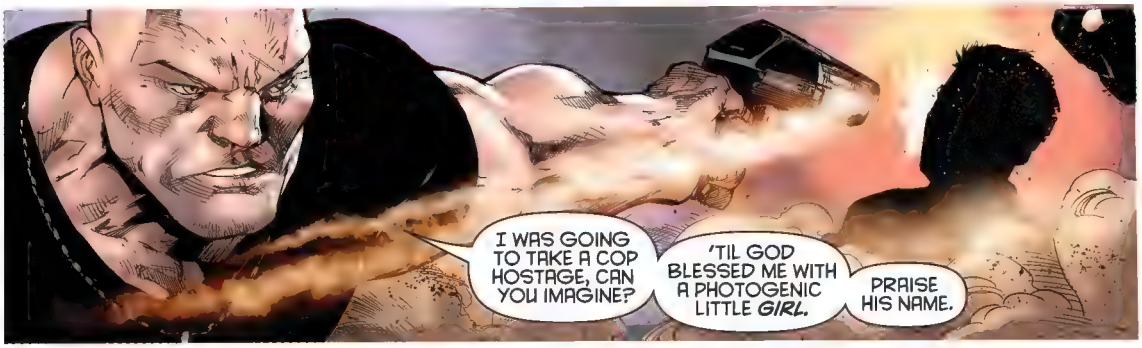

Too late.
YOU THINK I'M A CRIMINAL. I'M NOT.
OKAY.
WHAT ARE YOU, THEN?
I'M A PROPHET, RED.
A HOLY MAN.

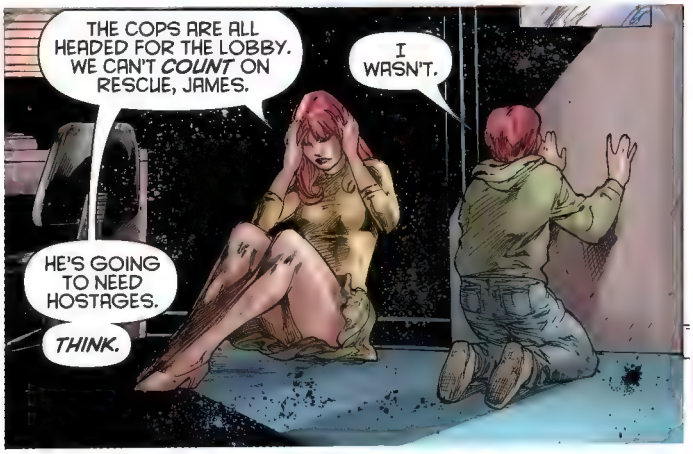

WHY ARE YOU EYEBALLING ME, BOY?
THAT'S JUST MY BROTHER.
I KNOW WHAT HE IS.
I CAN SEE.
What is that supposed to mean?

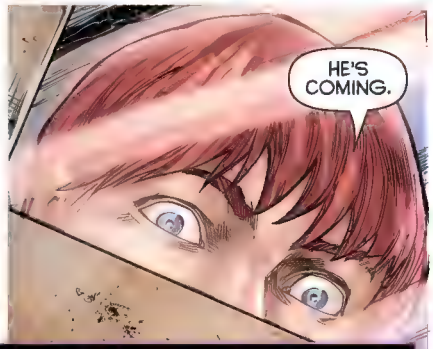
LOOK AT YOU, PRETTY LITTLE THING. COLLEGE GIRL.
YOU, I LIKE.
YOU JUST NEED TRAINING.
TRAINING FOR WHAT, HARRY?

HEH.
FOR THE COMING PLAGUE, RED.
ONLY SAFETY IS IN MY SHADOW, LITTLE WILLOW.
I'LL TEACH YOU TO LIKE IT.

BUUUOOHAMMMM
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
THAT?
MISS GORDON. GET TO SAFETY.
Good Lord.
THAT WOULD BE A HOST OF ANGELS COME TO FETCH ME SKYWARD.
RAISE YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD AND STEP AWAY FROM THE GUARD, NOW!
I WILL FIRE AT YOU!
THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, CHILDREN.
GUHH.
BLAMM
ATTENTION DISBELIEVERS!
WE ARE HERE FOR OUR BROTHER, MISTREATED BY YOUR WARPED IDEA OF JUSTICE!
WE WILL KILL EVERY DAMN ONE OF YOU PIGS IF YOU TRY TO RESIST!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
KEYS, KEYS, KEYS.
GET AWAY FROM THEM!
SEE, HERE'S THE THING ABOUT THAT, WILLOW.
KID OF THE COMMISH, WELL, THAT'S A PRIZE FAT HOG OF A HOSTAGE.

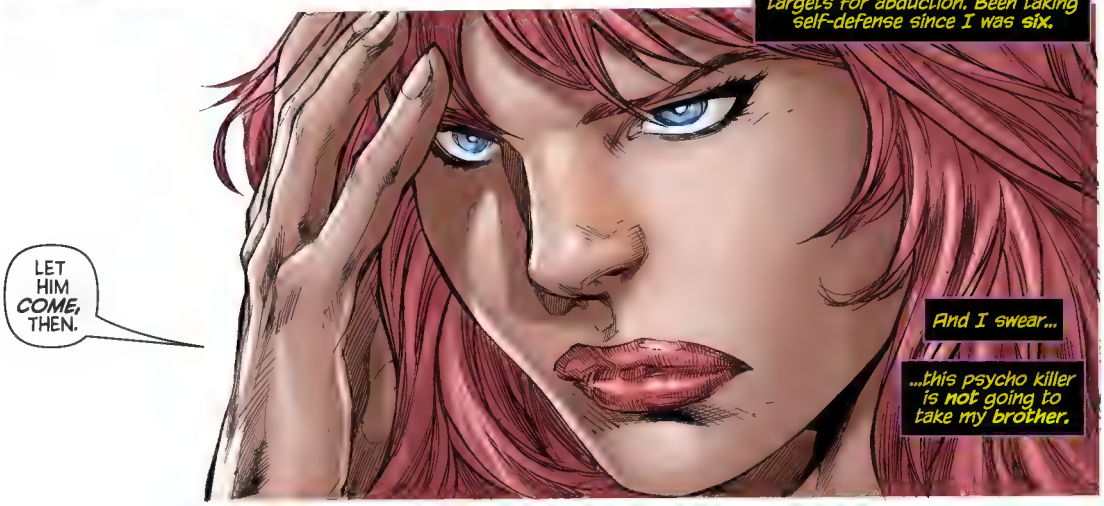






y dad is the Commissioner for the most gerous city in America. He makes blood nemies like other people make pancakes.

*We always knew we might be targets for abduction. Been taking self-defense since I was **six.***

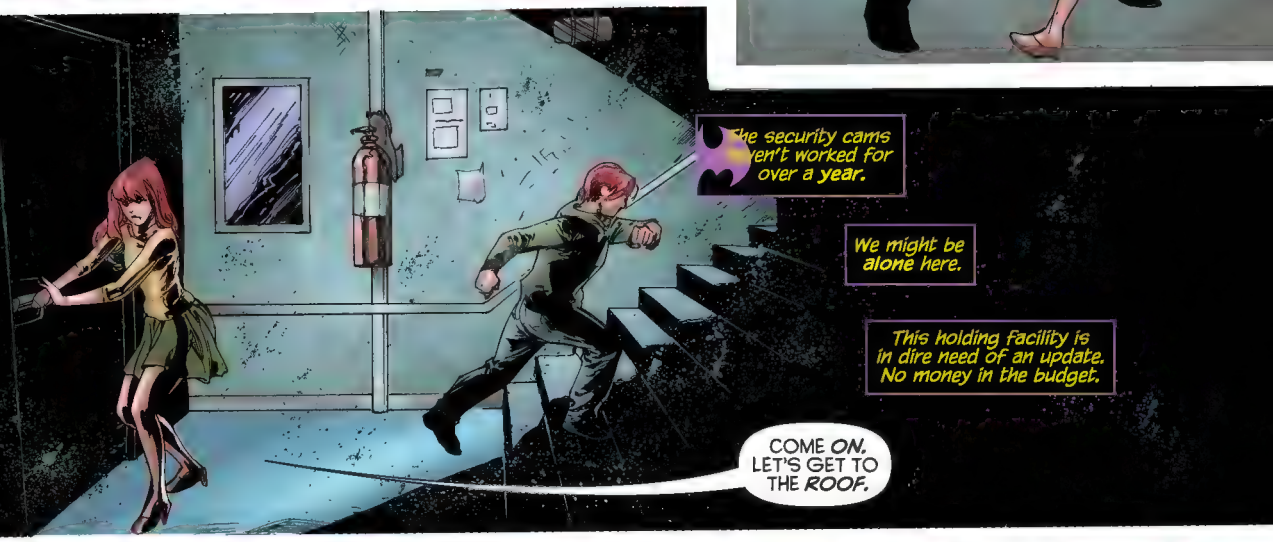


And I swear...

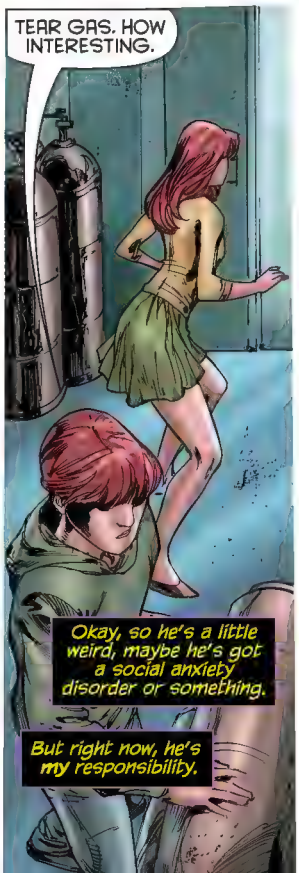
*...this psycho killer is **not** going to take my **brother.***

I KNOW YOU'RE *IN* HERE, WILLOW.
YOU'D BEST COME *ON*, NOW.

KRRAK
GO TO *HELL*, HARRY.


The security cams haven't worked for over a **year.**
We might be **alone** here.
This holding facility is in dire need of an update. No money in the budget.
COME *ON*, LET'S GET TO THE *ROOF*.

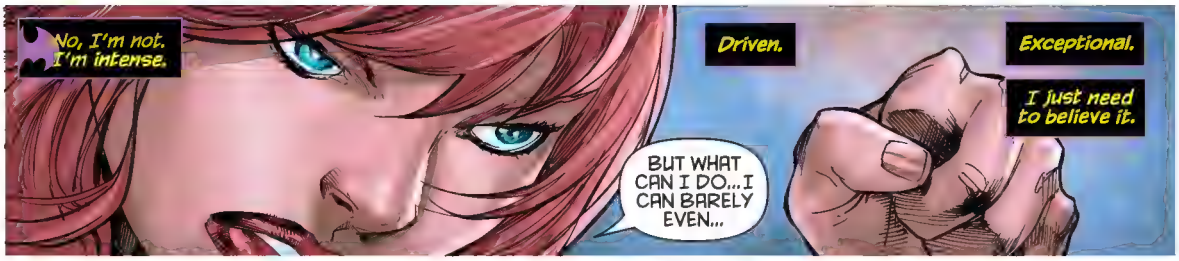
And all I wanted was a good **grade.**
THEY'VE BLOCKED OFF ACCESS TO THE ARMORY.
KEEP THE CULTISTS *AWAY* FROM THE UNARMED CIVILIANS AND ADMIN UPSTAIRS, YOU *HEAR* ME?

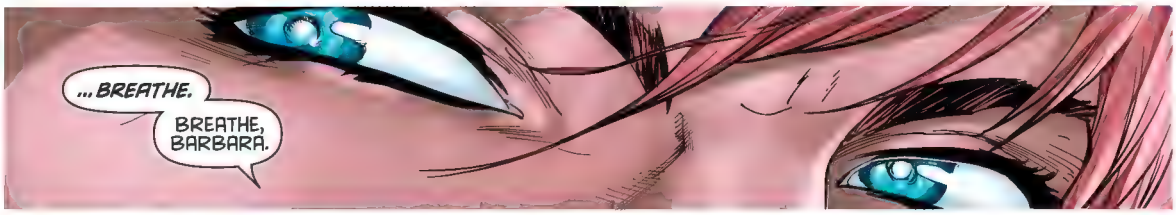

TEAR GAS. HOW INTERESTING.
Okay, so he's a little weird, maybe he's got a social anxiety disorder or something.
But right now, he's **my** responsibility.

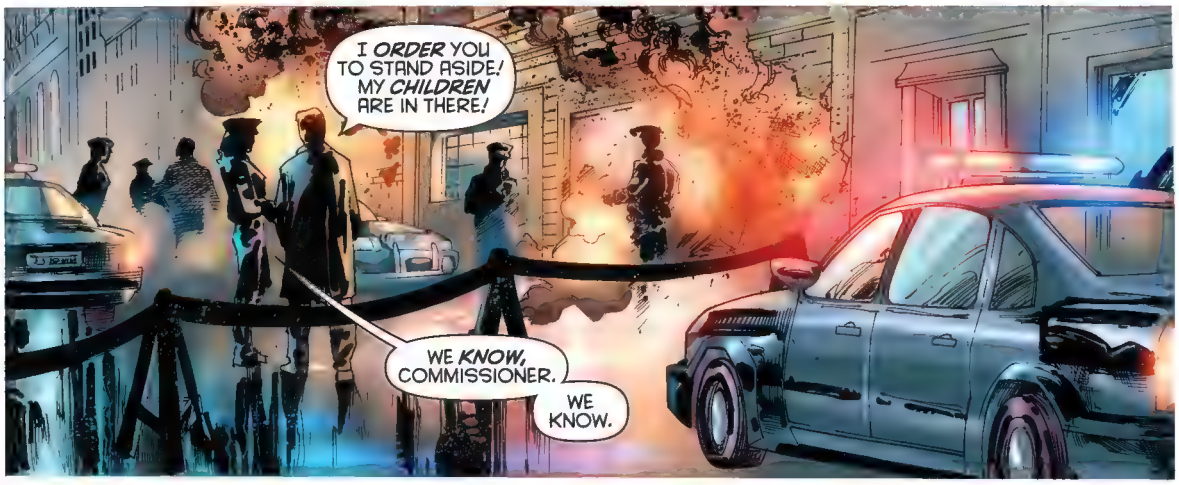
And the nightmare is **coming.**
I'VE DECIDED.
THE GIRL LIVES.
THE ABOMINATION *DIES*.

JAMES?
JAMES. -KOFF-
Dammit, too much gunfire, and now tear gas.
I lost him!

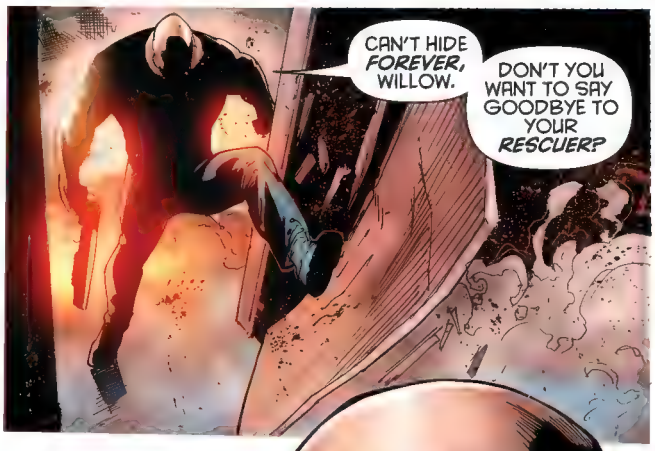
JAMES!
AW, DID YOUR LITTLE BROTHER RABBIT ON YOU, WILLOW?
YOU'RE BETTER OFF, YOU KNOW.
OH, SH--
..oot.
UHNNN.
I'M REALLY DOING YOUR FAMILY A FAVOR.
MISS GORDON.
GET AWAY FROM THE PERIMETER!
Oh, man.
Officer Dwight to the rescue!
I'M GOING TO KILL THIS MAN, WILLOW.
THAT'S ON YOU FOR RUNNING.
-:KAFF:-
-:KAFF:-
Good lord. He'll do it. I know he'll do it.
HEAR THAT, WILLOW?
THAT'S HIM GURGLING ON HIS OWN BLOOD.
NOT LONG FOR THE HERO NOW, IS IT?
What the hell can I even do? I'm just a student.


No, I'm not. I'm intense.
Driven.
Exceptional.
I just need to believe it.
BUT WHAT CAN I DO...I CAN BARELY EVEN...


...BREATHE.
BREATHE, BARBARA.

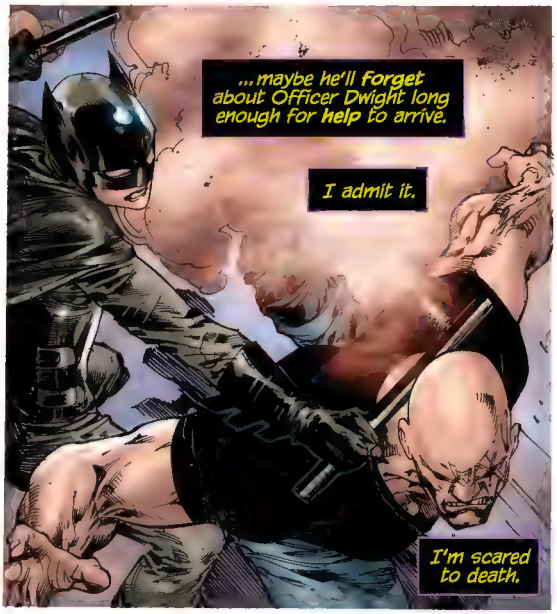

I ORDER YOU TO STAND ASIDE! MY CHILDREN ARE IN THERE!
WE KNOW, COMMISSIONER.
WE KNOW.

BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE.
THE HOSTILES ARE BLOCKING THE EXIT. LET THE NEGOTIATORS DO THEIR JOBS.
WE CAN'T LOSE YOU, SIR.

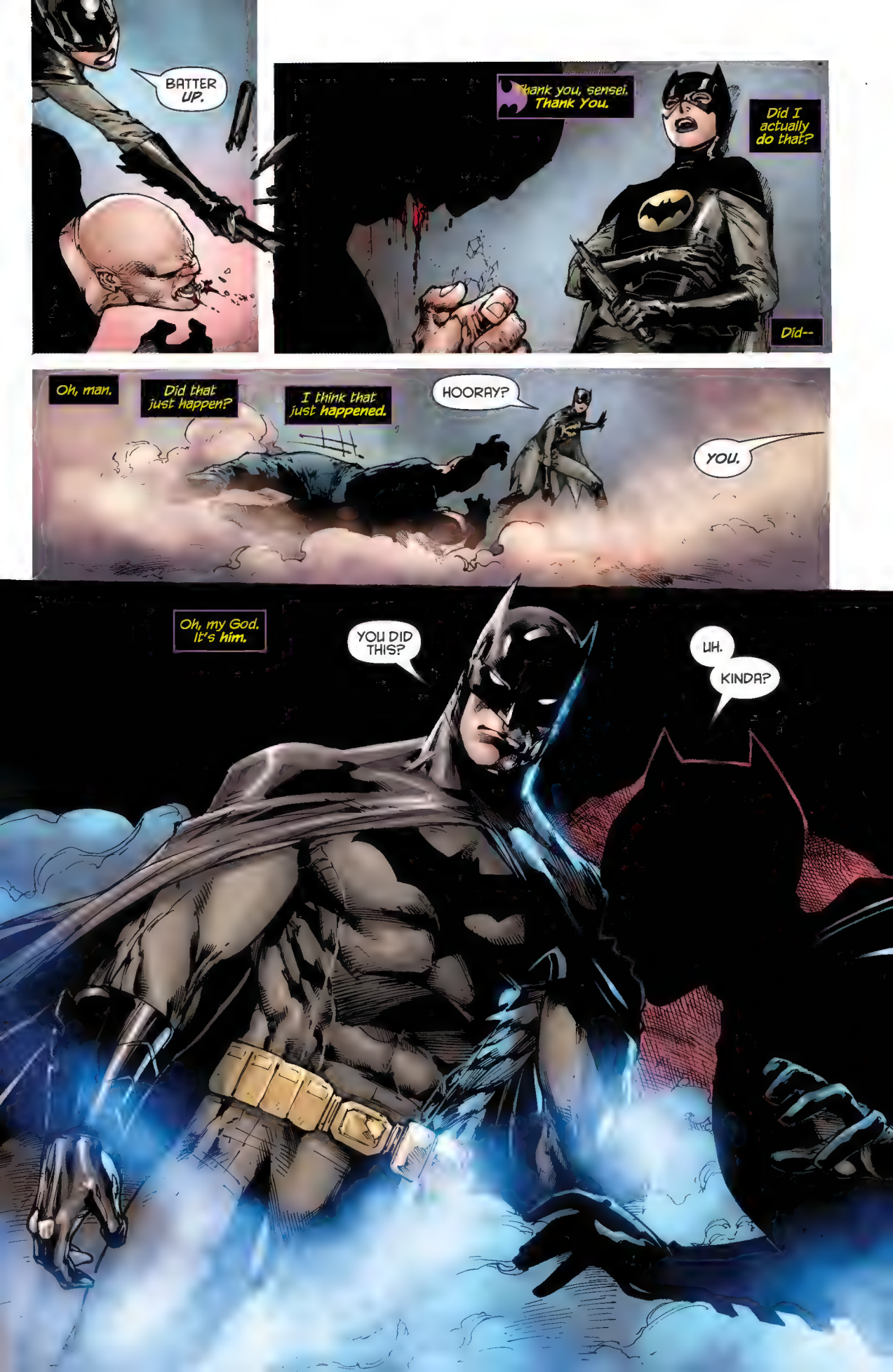

CAN'T HIDE FOREVER, WILLOW.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR RESCUER?

HEY.

WHO'S *HIDING*, DIRTBAG?



Hey.
Hey!
GUHK.
That was awesome.
HA.
YOU THINK YOU'RE A SAVIOR?
YOU THINK YOU'RE A PROPHET?
YOU'RE BARELY EVEN A MAN, HARRY.
Been lucky. Really lucky.
He's never had a woman fight back, maybe.
Still.
I can't believe this is working.
Arm bar.
Reversal.
Oh, baby, please just let this work or I'm done.

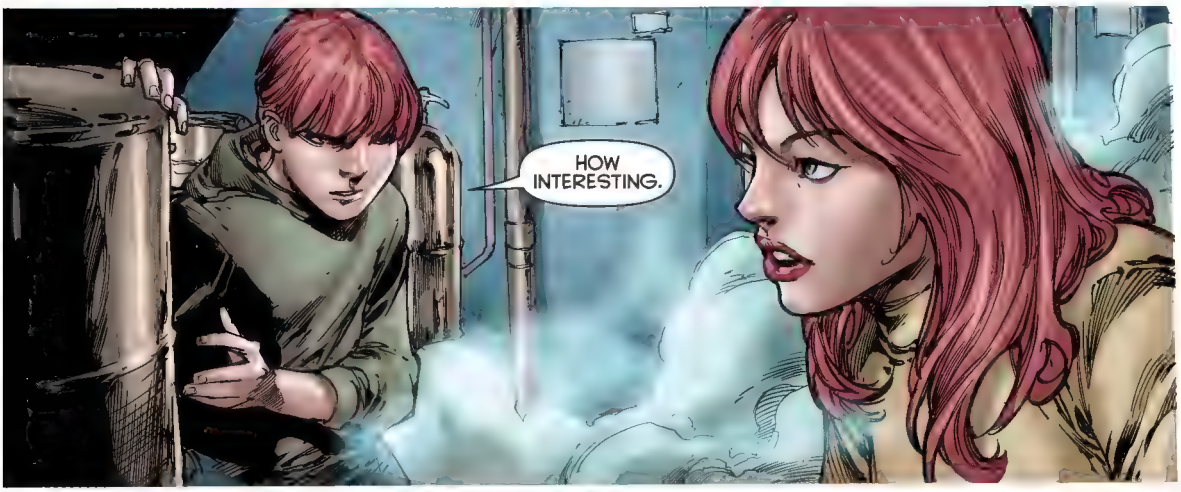

BATTER UP.
Thank you, sensei. Thank You.
Did I actually do that?
Did--
Oh, man.
Did that just happen?
I think that just happened.
HOORAY?
YOU.
Oh, my God. It's him.
YOU DID THIS?
UH.
KINDA?

Suddenly, I get it. It's like I see him. I see why crooks are terrified, why Dad doesn't talk about him.
He's not a myth or a nightmare.
He's a real man, a human being.
TO PROTECT THIS OFFICER?
YEAH. SORTA.

...
NICE WORK.
And now I know what being driven really means.

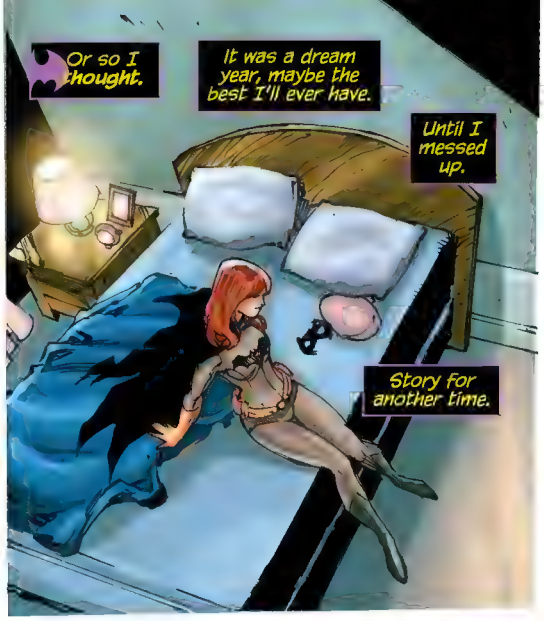
DWIGHT, I'M GOING TO GO GET YOU HELP, OKAY? I KNOW YOU CAN'T HEAR ME...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

And I know I want my life to matter.


HOW INTERESTING.

The next day, all the papers mentioned my father's "brave leadership."
No one mentioned the two oddballs with the capes.
I kept quiet about it myself, for some reason, like I knew it was a secret worth **keeping.**
In the ensuing chaos as the cops retook the **G.C.P.D.**, Harry X was somehow shot...no cop claimed to have pulled the trigger.
Weird.
I admit it, I liked the rush. I said it was to help people, and it was...
...but I liked the rush.
And I learned fast.
Really fast.

ONE YEAR LATER...
I became my own white knight.
For one year, I was happy. so happy.
The things that made me an outsider to the world made me a star in the Gotham night sky.
Our weird little group.
Like twisted moths.
We can't stay away from the darkness.

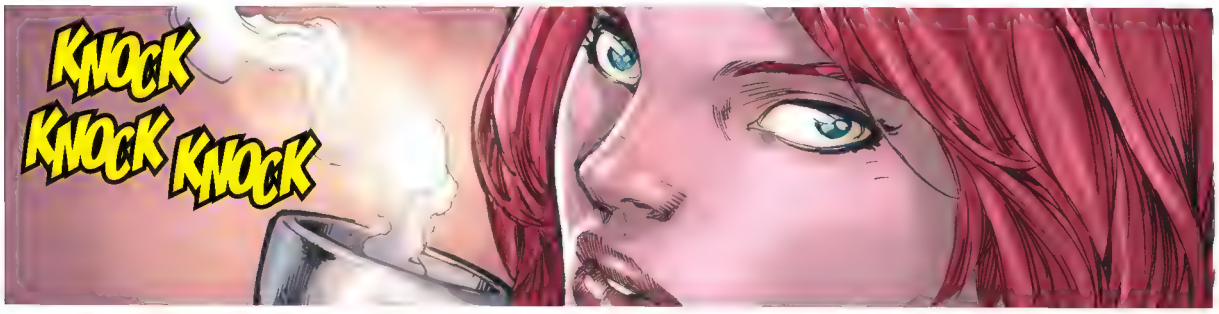

Or so I thought.
It was a dream year, maybe the best I'll ever have.
Until I messed up.
Story for another time.

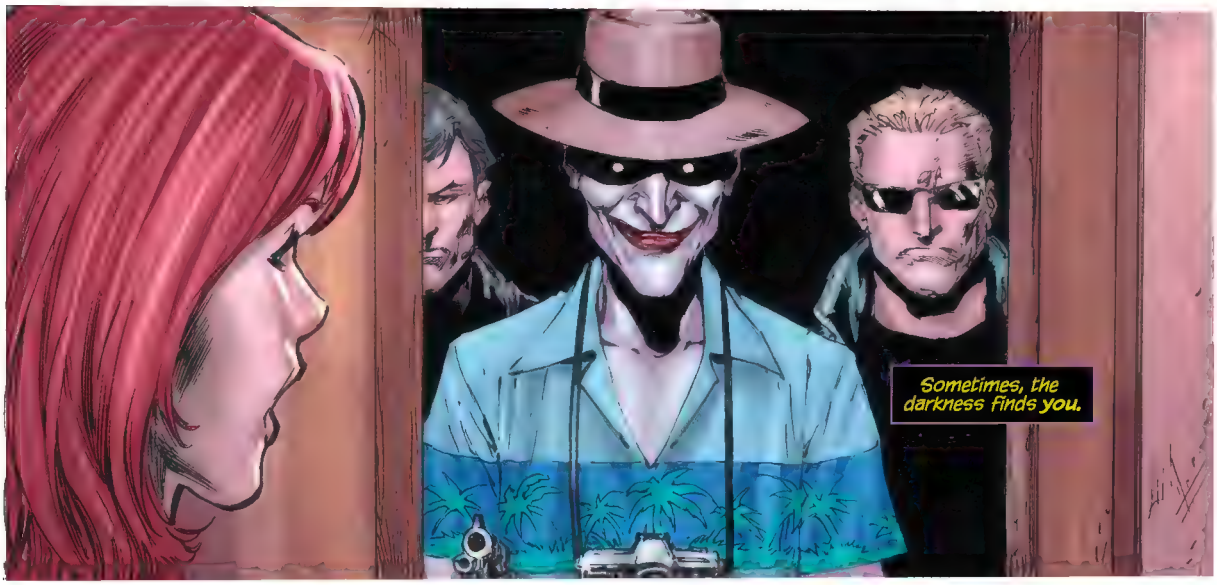
And I dared to think the unthinkable...
"Can I give this up for good?"

And it turns out I could.
I threw myself into my college studies.
I wanted to help people. Cape or not, I wanted to help.

Miracle of miracles for the high school dateless wonder, I even met a boy.

I missed it sometimes, sure. The good we did, the family we made.
But I didn't miss the blood.
I didn't miss the darkness.

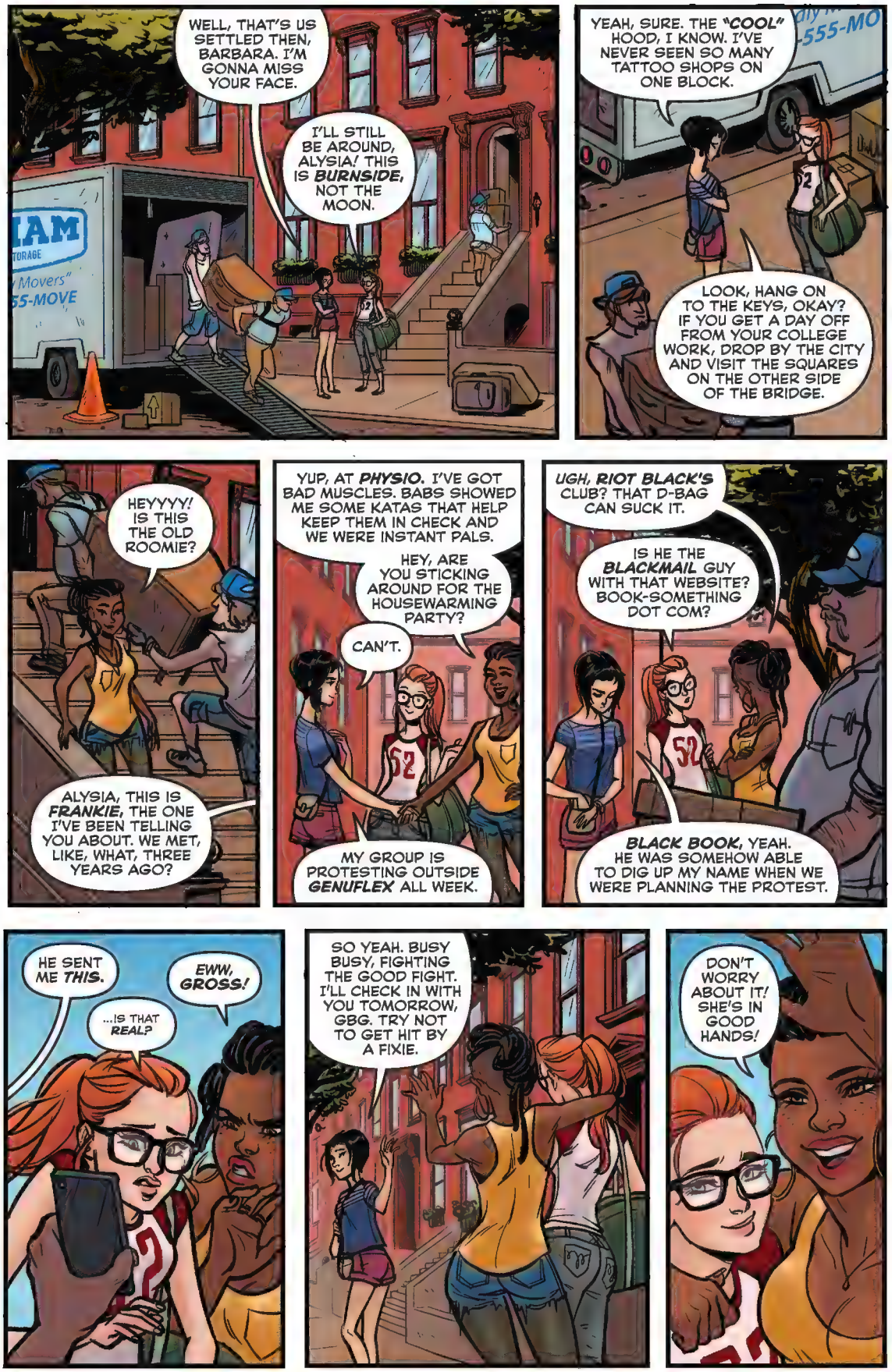


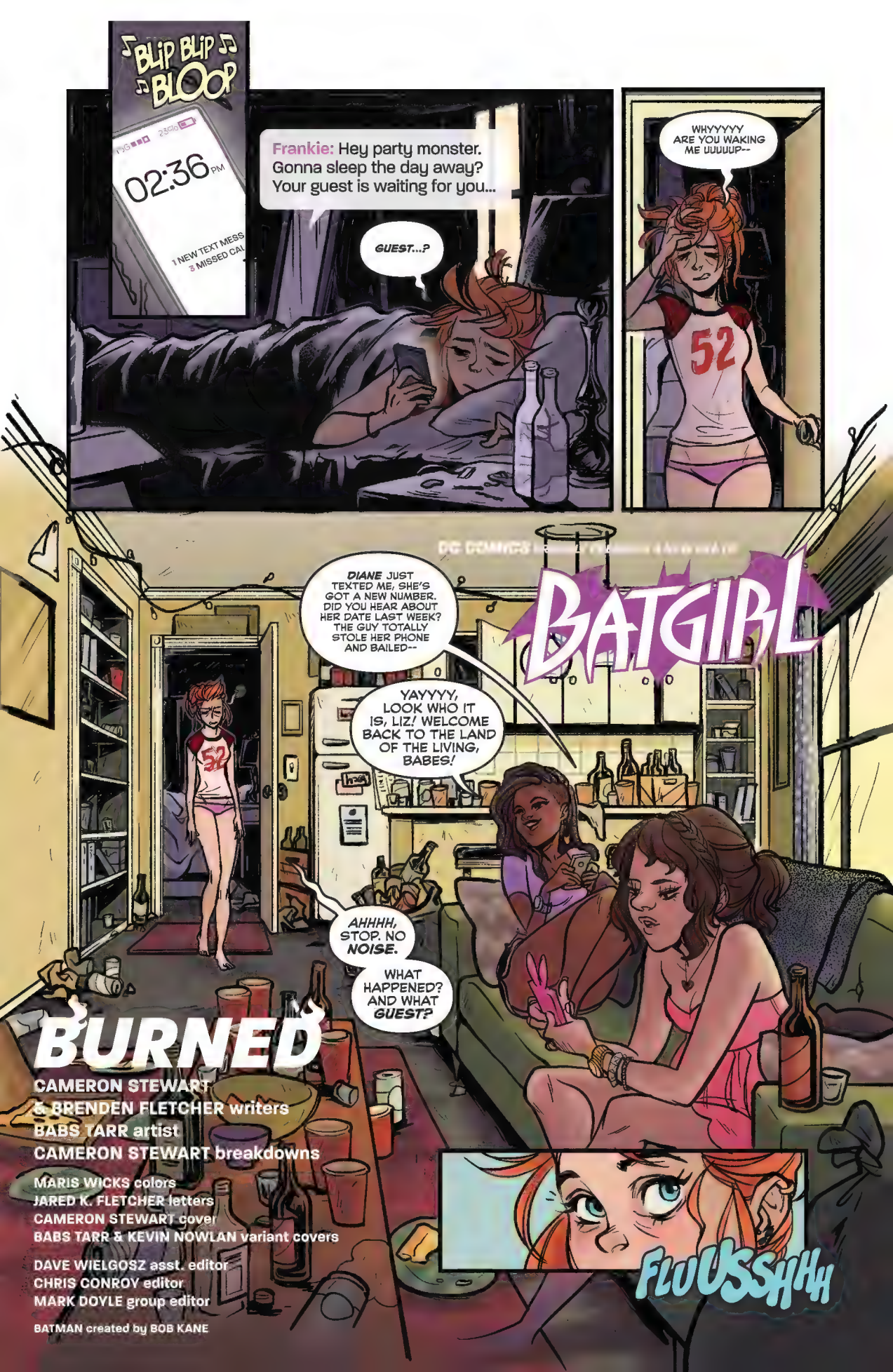


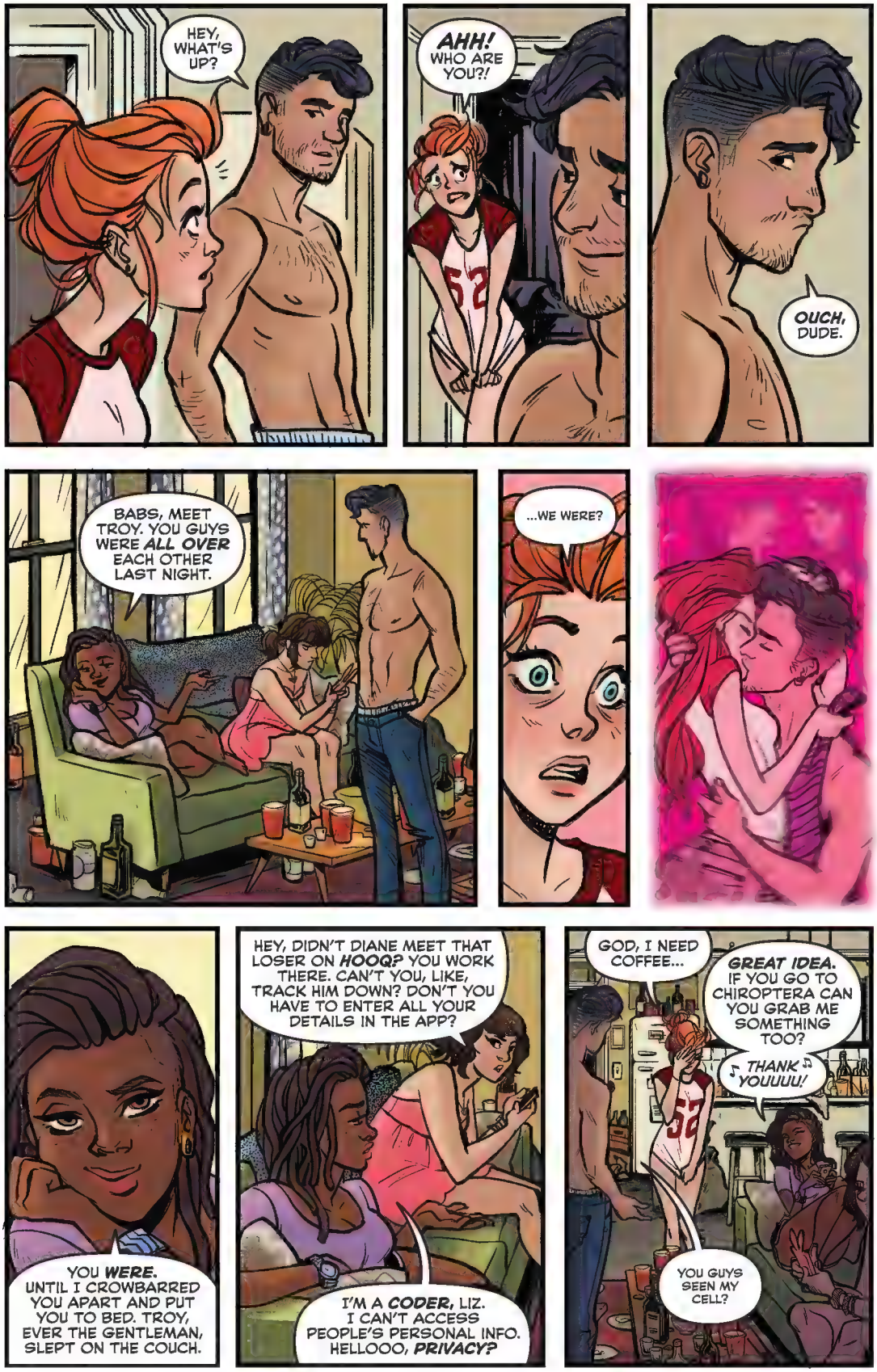
A FIRE IN THE HEAVENS

GAIL SIMONE: WRITER ED BENES: PENCILS AND INKS
ULISES ARREOLA: COLORS DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS COVER: BENES AND ARREOLA
BRIAN SMITH: EDITOR BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

DC COMICS
35
STEWART
FLETCHER
TARR
WICKS
BATGIRL
THE NEW 52!
hoq
Ashes on Sunday
THE RACULORDS
ARE YOU IN THE BLACK BOOK?
75


WELL, THAT'S US SETTLED THEN, BARBARA. I'M GONNA MISS YOUR FACE.
I'LL STILL BE AROUND, ALYSIA! THIS IS BURNSIDE, NOT THE MOON.
YEAH, SURE. THE "COOL" HOOD, I KNOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY TATTOO SHOPS ON ONE BLOCK.
LOOK, HANG ON TO THE KEYS, OKAY? IF YOU GET A DAY OFF FROM YOUR COLLEGE WORK, DROP BY THE CITY AND VISIT THE SQUARES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.
HEYYYY! IS THIS THE OLD ROOMIE?
ALYSIA, THIS IS FRANKIE, THE ONE I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT. WE MET, LIKE, WHAT, THREE YEARS AGO?
YUP, AT PHYSIO. I'VE GOT BAD MUSCLES. BABS SHOWED ME SOME KATAS THAT HELP KEEP THEM IN CHECK AND WE WERE INSTANT PALS.
HEY, ARE YOU STICKING AROUND FOR THE HOUSEWARMING PARTY?
CAN'T.
MY GROUP IS PROTESTING OUTSIDE GENUFLEX ALL WEEK.
UGH, RIOT BLACK'S CLUB? THAT D-BAG CAN SUCK IT.
IS HE THE BLACKMAIL GUY WITH THAT WEBSITE? BOOK-SOMETHING DOT COM?
BLACK BOOK, YEAH. HE WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO DIG UP MY NAME WHEN WE WERE PLANNING THE PROTEST.
HE SENT ME THIS.
EWW, GROSS!
...IS THAT REAL?
SO YEAH. BUSY BUSY, FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT. I'LL CHECK IN WITH YOU TOMORROW, GBG. TRY NOT TO GET HIT BY A FIXIE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS!


BLIP BLIP BLOOP
02:36 PM
1 NEW TEXT MESS
3 MISSED CAL
Frankie: Hey party monster. Gonna sleep the day away? Your guest is waiting for you...
GUEST...?
WHYYYYY ARE YOU WAKING ME UUUUUP--
DIANE JUST TEXTED ME, SHE'S GOT A NEW NUMBER. DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HER DATE LAST WEEK? THE GUY TOTALLY STOLE HER PHONE AND BAILED--
YAYYYY, LOOK WHO IT IS, LIZ! WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, BABES!
AHHHH, STOP. NO NOISE.
WHAT HAPPENED? AND WHAT GUEST?
BATGIRL
BURNED
CAMERON STEWART & BRENDEN FLETCHER writers
BABS TARR artist
CAMERON STEWART breakdowns
MARIS WICKS colors
JARED K. FLETCHER letters
CAMERON STEWART cover
BABS TARR & KEVIN NOWLAN variant covers
DAVE WIELGOSZ asst. editor
CHRIS CONROY editor
MARK DOYLE group editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE
FLUUSSHHH


HEY, WHAT'S UP?
AHH! WHO ARE YOU?!
OUCH, DUDE.
BABS, MEET TROY. YOU GUYS WERE ALL OVER EACH OTHER LAST NIGHT.
...WE WERE?
YOU WERE. UNTIL I CROWBARRED YOU APART AND PUT YOU TO BED. TROY, EVER THE GENTLEMAN, SLEPT ON THE COUCH.
HEY, DIDN'T DIANE MEET THAT LOSER ON HOOQ? YOU WORK THERE. CAN'T YOU, LIKE, TRACK HIM DOWN? DON'T YOU HAVE TO ENTER ALL YOUR DETAILS IN THE APP?
I'M A CODER, LIZ. I CAN'T ACCESS PEOPLE'S PERSONAL INFO. HELLOOO, PRIVACY?
GOD, I NEED COFFEE...
GREAT IDEA. IF YOU GO TO CHIROPTERA CAN YOU GRAB ME SOMETHING TOO?
♪ THANK YOUUUU! ♪
YOU GUYS SEEN MY CELL?

FROM: **George Krupke**
TO: Barbara Gordon
SUBJECT: Research Funding

Dear Miss Gordon,
I regret to inform you the funding for your research has been held up. Urban geographers working so close to home often get the short end of the stick.

Thankfully you're already miles ahead of your peers with the predictive algorithm you've developed, and if it proves its worth, I see great things ahead. I'm proud to be your advisor and look forward to working with you.

FROM: **Bank of Gotham**
TO: Barbara Gordon
SUBJECT: Account Alert -Do Not Reply

You have been sent this message because your savings account has been overdrawn. Please make an appointment with a representative of your branch at your earliest convenience. Failure to do so will result in your account being frozen and penalties incurred. If you have already rectified this matter, please disregard this email.

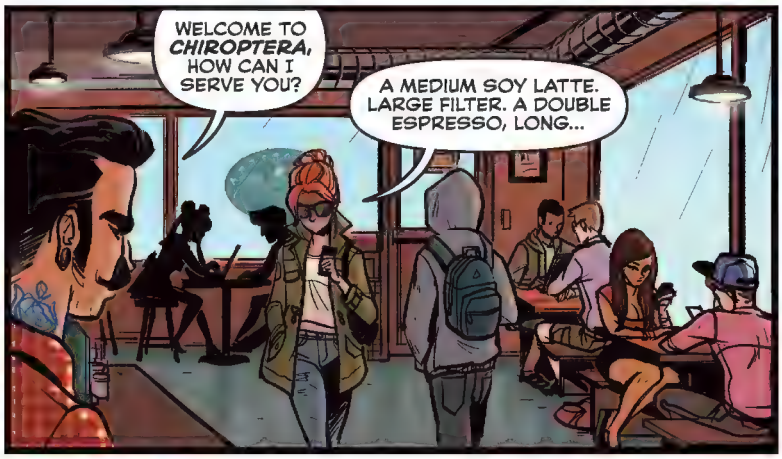
Thank you for banking in Gotham.

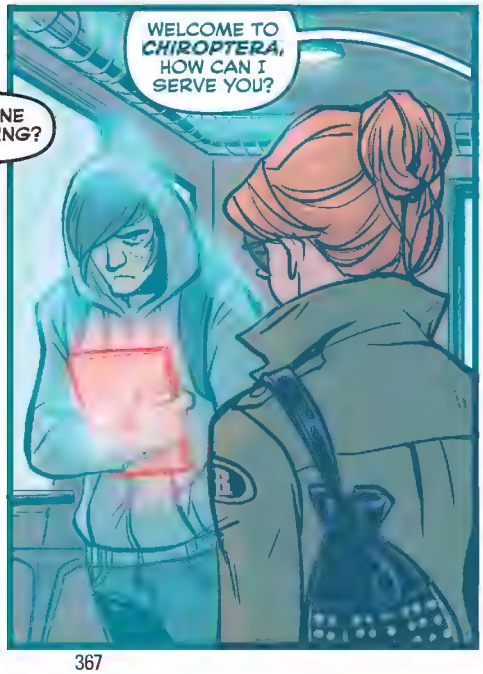
FROM: **Yeoh, Alysia**
TO: Barbara Gordon
SUBJECT: Still alive?

Been calling all morning, GBG. I hope your new roommate didn't break you already.

I stopped by the party late last night after all and was told you were out cold. Kinda unlike you. I know you want to have fun, but don't party away everything you've worked for. Please be careful, okay? You've still got keys, you're always welcome here.

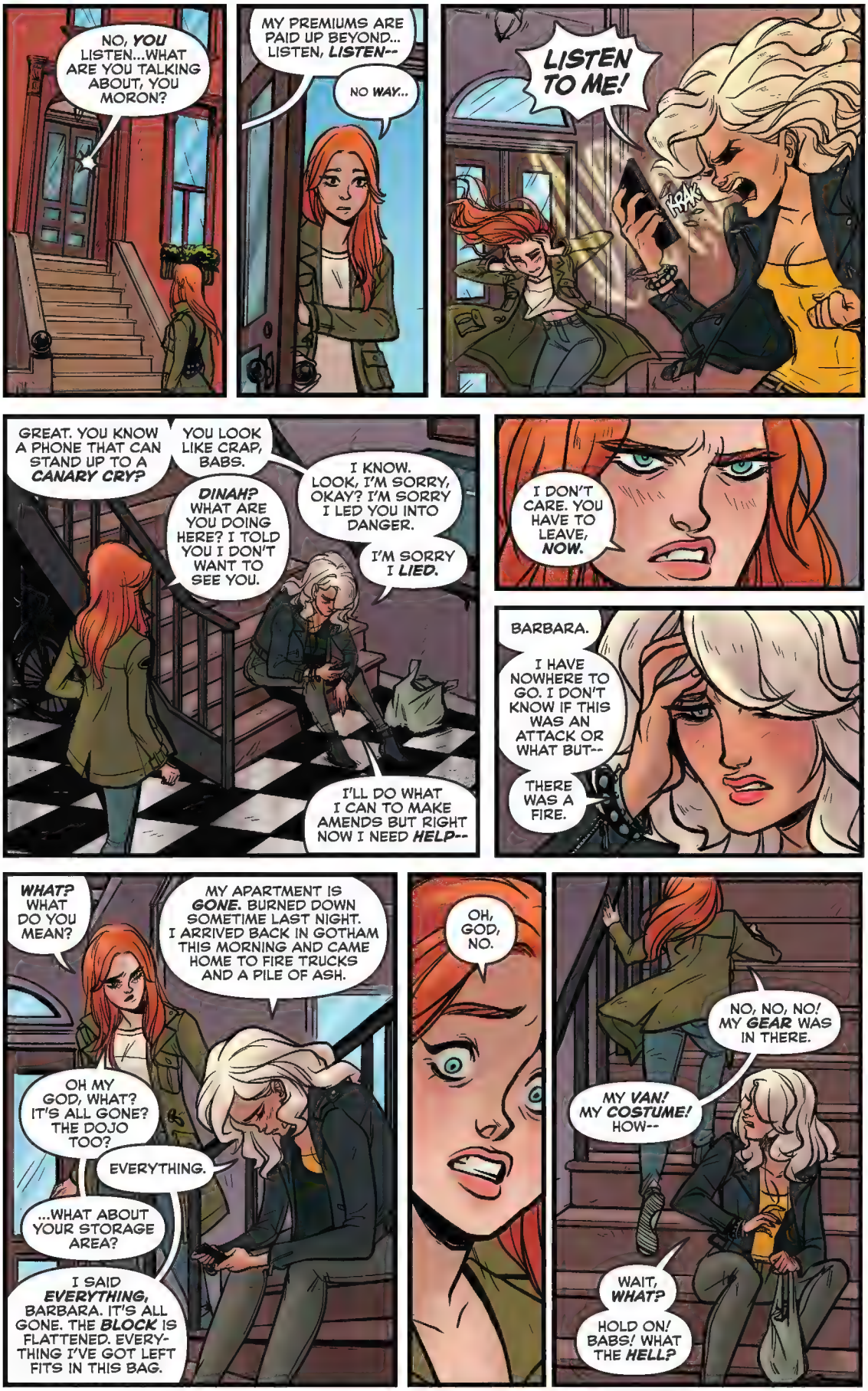
Call me soon.
Love you always,
A

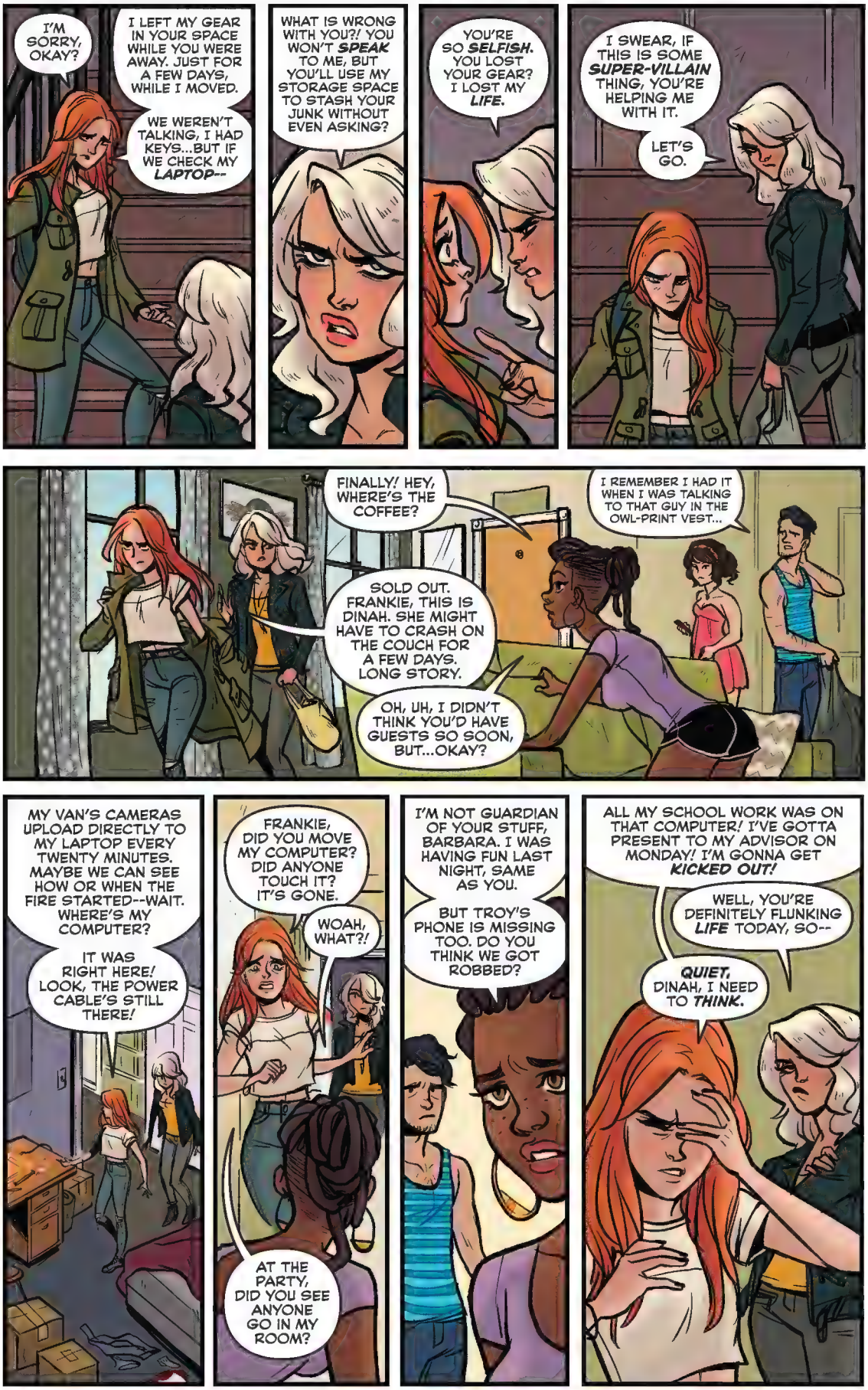


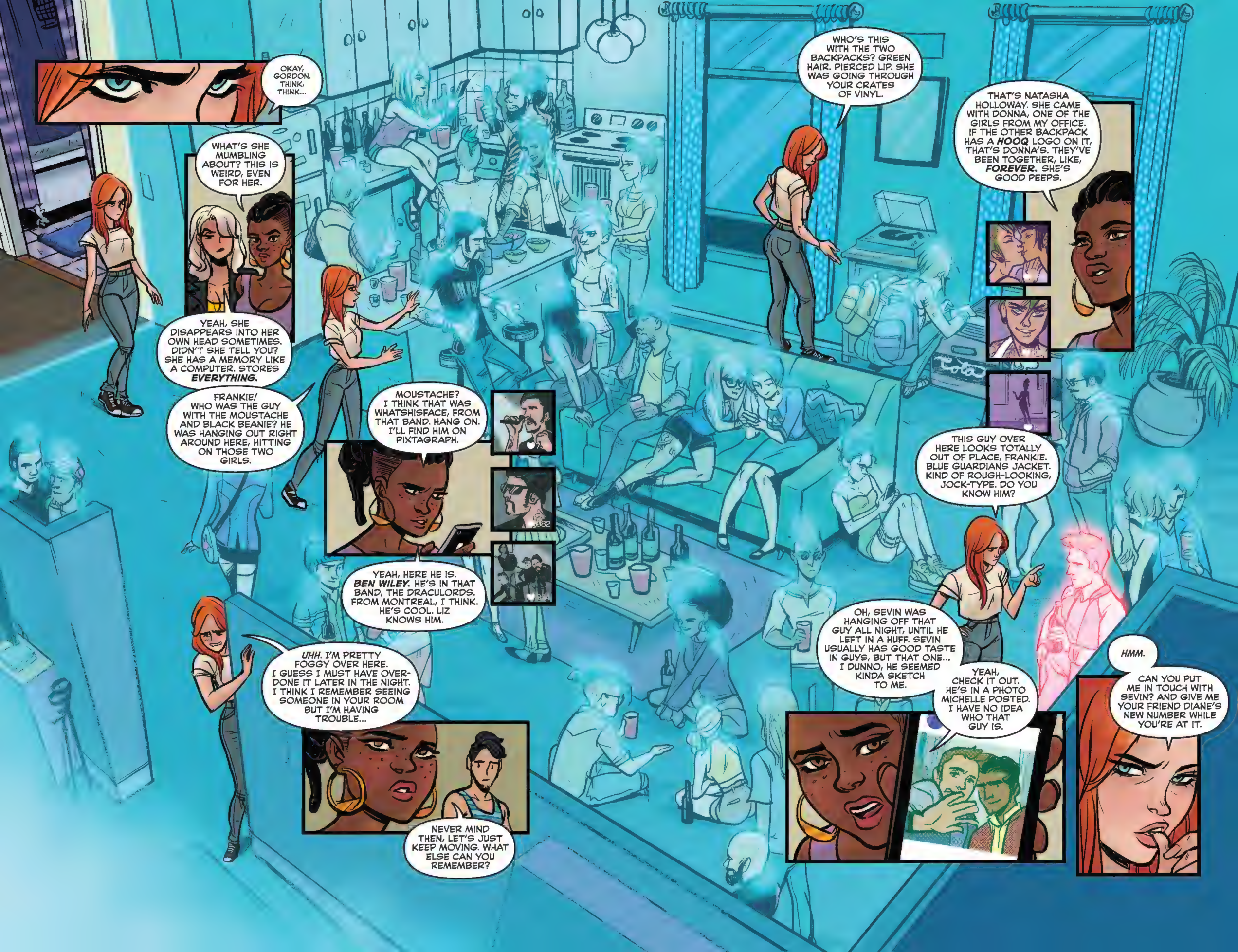


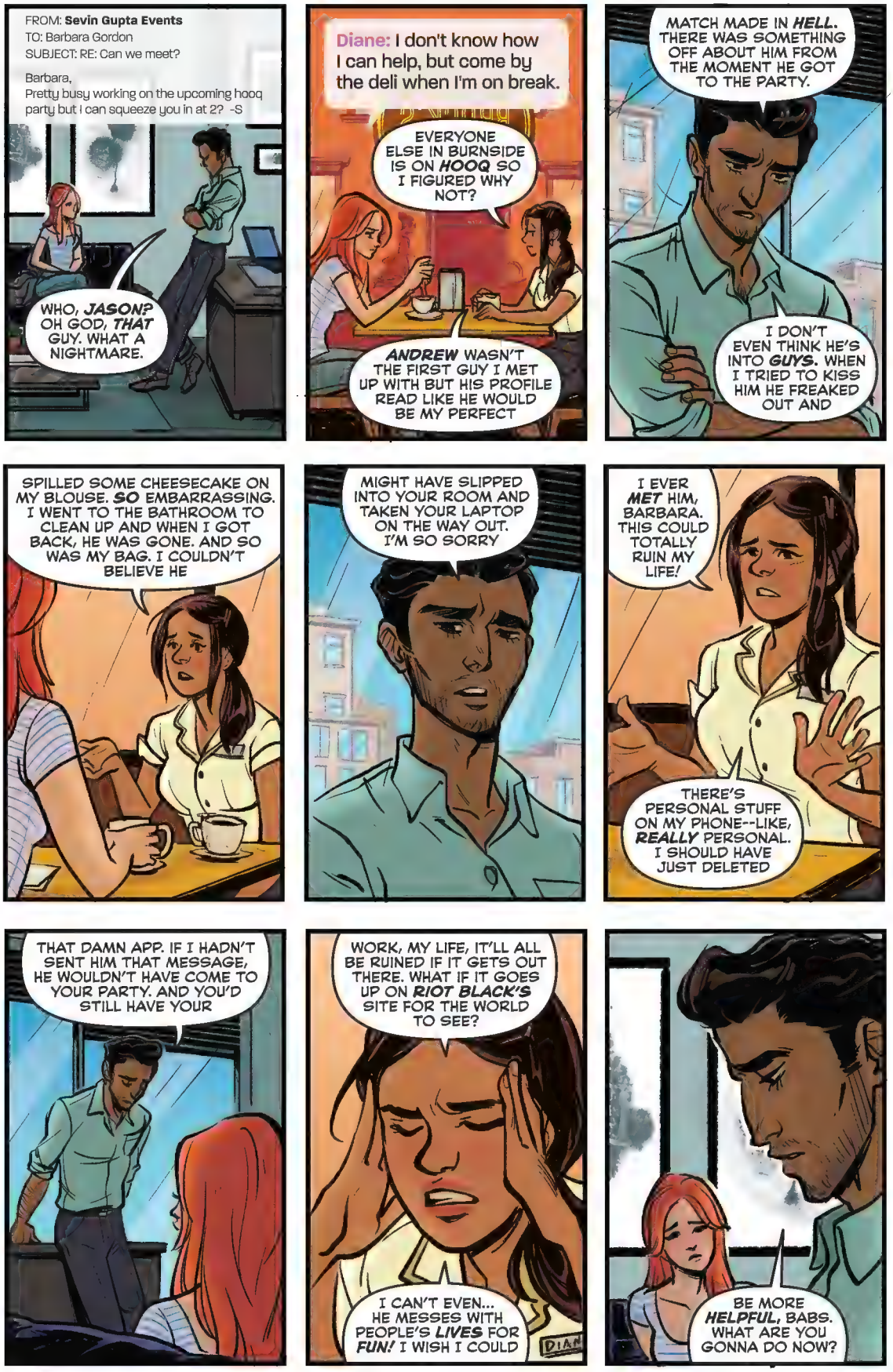
CATCH UP, GORDON, CATCH UP...WHAT'S THE QUICKEST ROUTE?
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME AROUND FROM FOURTH AVE, THIS ONE'S A DEAD END--
NO ENTRY!

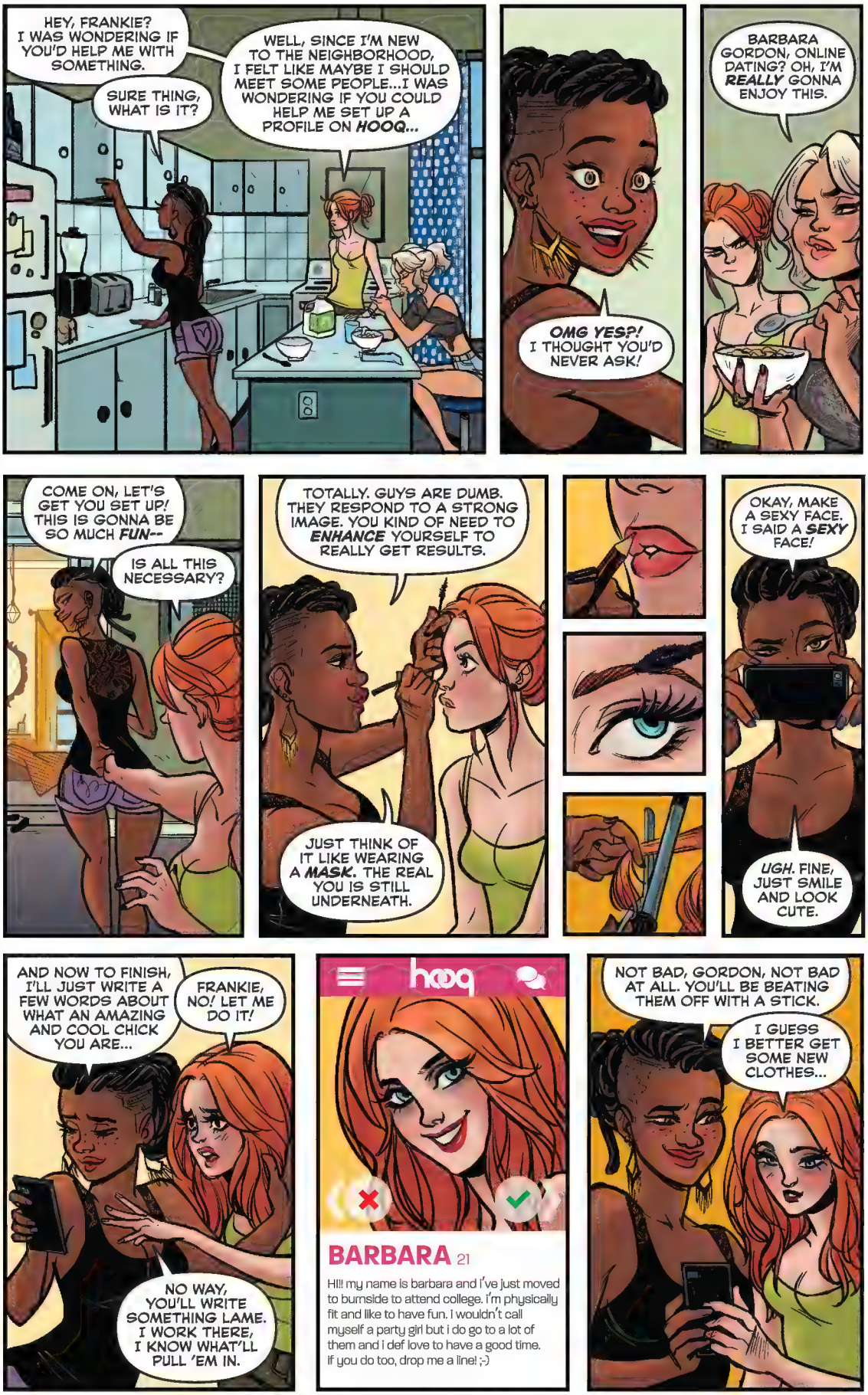
END OF THE LINE, JERK!
HAND OVER THE BAG AND I'LL GO EASY ON YOU.
FOR REAL? I'M S'POSED TO BE SCARED A' YOU? WHAT ARE YOU, LIKE, FOURTEEN?
WOK
REALLY?
ORDER FOR BARBARA? BARBARA?
I'M LEGAL, LOSER.
FWAM
BUT I COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU IN GRADE SCHOOL.
AAAOOOWW ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! TAKE IT, TAKE THE BAG! GET OFF ME!
HUH. THAT DIDN'T FEEL AS SATISFYING AS IT USUALLY--
...AW, NO.
HOOOUUUPP


NO, YOU LISTEN...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU MORON?
MY PREMIUMS ARE PAID UP BEYOND... LISTEN, LISTEN--
NO WAY...
LISTEN TO ME!
GRAK
GREAT. YOU KNOW A PHONE THAT CAN STAND UP TO A CANARY CRY?
YOU LOOK LIKE CRAP, BABS.
DINAH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU.
I KNOW. LOOK, I'M SORRY, OKAY? I'M SORRY I LED YOU INTO DANGER.
I'M SORRY I LIED.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO MAKE AMENDS BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED HELP--
I DON'T CARE. YOU HAVE TO LEAVE, NOW.
BARBARA.
I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS AN ATTACK OR WHAT BUT--
THERE WAS A FIRE.
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MY APARTMENT IS GONE. BURNED DOWN SOMETIME LAST NIGHT. I ARRIVED BACK IN GOTHAM THIS MORNING AND CAME HOME TO FIRE TRUCKS AND A PILE OF ASH.
OH MY GOD, WHAT? IT'S ALL GONE? THE DOJO TOO?
EVERYTHING.
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR STORAGE AREA?
I SAID EVERYTHING, BARBARA. IT'S ALL GONE. THE BLOCK IS FLATTENED. EVERYTHING I'VE GOT LEFT FITS IN THIS BAG.
OH, GOD, NO.
NO, NO, NO! MY GEAR WAS IN THERE.
MY VAN! MY COSTUME! HOW--
WAIT, WHAT?
HOLD ON! BABS! WHAT THE HELL?


I'M SORRY, OKAY?
I LEFT MY GEAR IN YOUR SPACE WHILE YOU WERE AWAY. JUST FOR A FEW DAYS, WHILE I MOVED.
WE WEREN'T TALKING, I HAD KEYS...BUT IF WE CHECK MY LAPTOP--
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?! YOU WON'T SPEAK TO ME, BUT YOU'LL USE MY STORAGE SPACE TO STASH YOUR JUNK WITHOUT EVEN ASKING?
YOU'RE SO SELFISH. YOU LOST YOUR GEAR? I LOST MY LIFE.
I SWEAR, IF THIS IS SOME SUPER-VILLAIN THING, YOU'RE HELPING ME WITH IT.
LET'S GO.
FINALLY! HEY, WHERE'S THE COFFEE?
I REMEMBER I HAD IT WHEN I WAS TALKING TO THAT GUY IN THE OWL-PRINT VEST...
SOLD OUT. FRANKIE, THIS IS DINAH. SHE MIGHT HAVE TO CRASH ON THE COUCH FOR A FEW DAYS. LONG STORY.
OH, UH, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HAVE GUESTS SO SOON, BUT...OKAY?
MY VAN'S CAMERAS UPLOAD DIRECTLY TO MY LAPTOP EVERY TWENTY MINUTES. MAYBE WE CAN SEE HOW OR WHEN THE FIRE STARTED--WAIT. WHERE'S MY COMPUTER?
IT WAS RIGHT HERE! LOOK, THE POWER CABLE'S STILL THERE!
FRANKIE, DID YOU MOVE MY COMPUTER? DID ANYONE TOUCH IT? IT'S GONE.
WOAH, WHAT?!
AT THE PARTY, DID YOU SEE ANYONE GO IN MY ROOM?
I'M NOT GUARDIAN OF YOUR STUFF, BARBARA. I WAS HAVING FUN LAST NIGHT, SAME AS YOU.
BUT TROY'S PHONE IS MISSING TOO. DO YOU THINK WE GOT ROBBED?
ALL MY SCHOOL WORK WAS ON THAT COMPUTER! I'VE GOTTA PRESENT TO MY ADVISOR ON MONDAY! I'M GONNA GET KICKED OUT!
WELL, YOU'RE DEFINITELY FLUNKING LIFE TODAY, SO--
QUIET, DINAH, I NEED TO THINK.


OKAY, GORDON. THINK, THINK...
WHAT'S SHE MUMBLING ABOUT? THIS IS WEIRD, EVEN FOR HER.
YEAH, SHE DISAPPEARS INTO HER OWN HEAD SOMETIMES. DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU? SHE HAS A MEMORY LIKE A COMPUTER. STORES EVERYTHING.
FRANKIE! WHO WAS THE GUY WITH THE MOUSTACHE AND BLACK BEANIE? HE WAS HANGING OUT RIGHT AROUND HERE, HITTING ON THOSE TWO GIRLS.
MOUSTACHE? I THINK THAT WAS WHATSHISFACE, FROM THAT BAND. HANG ON. I'LL FIND HIM ON PIXTAGRAPH.
YEAH, HERE HE IS. BEN WILEY. HE'S IN THAT BAND, THE DRACULORDS. FROM MONTREAL, I THINK. HE'S COOL. LIZ KNOWS HIM.
UHH. I'M PRETTY FOGGY OVER HERE. I GUESS I MUST HAVE OVER-DONE IT LATER IN THE NIGHT. I THINK I REMEMBER SEEING SOMEONE IN YOUR ROOM BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE...
NEVER MIND THEN, LET'S JUST KEEP MOVING. WHAT ELSE CAN YOU REMEMBER?
WHO'S THIS WITH THE TWO BACKPACKS? GREEN HAIR. PIERCED LIP. SHE WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR CRATES OF VINYL.
THAT'S NATASHA HOLLOWAY. SHE CAME WITH DONNA, ONE OF THE GIRLS FROM MY OFFICE. IF THE OTHER BACKPACK HAS A HOOQ LOGO ON IT, THAT'S DONNA'S. THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER, LIKE, FOREVER. SHE'S GOOD PEEPS.
THIS GUY OVER HERE LOOKS TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE, FRANKIE. BLUE GUARDIANS JACKET. KIND OF ROUGH-LOOKING, JOCK-TYPE. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
OH, SEVIN WAS HANGING OFF THAT GUY ALL NIGHT, UNTIL HE LEFT IN A HUFF. SEVIN USUALLY HAS GOOD TASTE IN GUYS, BUT THAT ONE... I DUNNO, HE SEEMED KINDA SKETCH TO ME.
YEAH, CHECK IT OUT. HE'S IN A PHOTO MICHELLE POSTED. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THAT GUY IS.
HMM.
CAN YOU PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SEVIN? AND GIVE ME YOUR FRIEND DIANE'S NEW NUMBER WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.


FROM: Sevin Gupta Events
TO: Barbara Gordon
SUBJECT: RE: Can we meet?
Barbara,
Pretty busy working on the upcoming hooq party but I can squeeze you in at 2? -S
WHO, JASON? OH GOD, THAT GUY. WHAT A NIGHTMARE.
Diane: I don't know how I can help, but come by the deli when I'm on break.
EVERYONE ELSE IN BURNSIDE IS ON HOOQ SO I FIGURED WHY NOT?
ANDREW WASN'T THE FIRST GUY I MET UP WITH BUT HIS PROFILE READ LIKE HE WOULD BE MY PERFECT
MATCH MADE IN HELL. THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT HIM FROM THE MOMENT HE GOT TO THE PARTY.
I DON'T EVEN THINK HE'S INTO GUYS. WHEN I TRIED TO KISS HIM HE FREAKED OUT AND
SPILLED SOME CHEESECAKE ON MY BLOUSE. SO EMBARRASSING. I WENT TO THE BATHROOM TO CLEAN UP AND WHEN I GOT BACK, HE WAS GONE. AND SO WAS MY BAG. I COULDN'T BELIEVE HE
MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED INTO YOUR ROOM AND TAKEN YOUR LAPTOP ON THE WAY OUT. I'M SO SORRY
I EVER MET HIM, BARBARA. THIS COULD TOTALLY RUIN MY LIFE!
THERE'S PERSONAL STUFF ON MY PHONE--LIKE, REALLY PERSONAL. I SHOULD HAVE JUST DELETED
THAT DAMN APP. IF I HADN'T SENT HIM THAT MESSAGE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO YOUR PARTY. AND YOU'D STILL HAVE YOUR
WORK, MY LIFE, IT'LL ALL BE RUINED IF IT GETS OUT THERE. WHAT IF IT GOES UP ON RIOT BLACK'S SITE FOR THE WORLD TO SEE?
I CAN'T EVEN... HE MESSES WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES FOR FUN! I WISH I COULD
BE MORE HELPFUL, BABS. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NOW?


HEY, FRANKIE? I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D HELP ME WITH SOMETHING.
SURE THING, WHAT IS IT?
WELL, SINCE I'M NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I FELT LIKE MAYBE I SHOULD MEET SOME PEOPLE...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME SET UP A PROFILE ON HOOQ...
OMG YES?! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!
BARBARA GORDON, ONLINE DATING? OH, I'M REALLY GONNA ENJOY THIS.
COME ON, LET'S GET YOU SET UP! THIS IS GONNA BE SO MUCH FUN--
IS ALL THIS NECESSARY?
TOTALLY. GUYS ARE DUMB. THEY RESPOND TO A STRONG IMAGE. YOU KIND OF NEED TO ENHANCE YOURSELF TO REALLY GET RESULTS.
JUST THINK OF IT LIKE WEARING A MASK. THE REAL YOU IS STILL UNDERNEATH.
OKAY, MAKE A SEXY FACE. I SAID A SEXY FACE!
UGH. FINE, JUST SMILE AND LOOK CUTE.
AND NOW TO FINISH, I'LL JUST WRITE A FEW WORDS ABOUT WHAT AN AMAZING AND COOL CHICK YOU ARE...
FRANKIE, NO! LET ME DO IT!
NO WAY, YOU'LL WRITE SOMETHING LAME. I WORK THERE, I KNOW WHAT'LL PULL 'EM IN.
hooq
BARBARA 21
Hi!! my name is barbara and i've just moved to burnside to attend college. i'm physically fit and like to have fun. i wouldn't call myself a party girl but i do go to a lot of them and i def love to have a good time. if you do too, drop me a line! ;-)
NOT BAD, GORDON, NOT BAD AT ALL. YOU'LL BE BEATING THEM OFF WITH A STICK.
I GUESS I BETTER GET SOME NEW CLOTHES...

PEGASUS VINTAGE
BULLSEYE
00:23
03:11
ToR (Fresh Crown)
Juniper Vega feat. Lacey K.
ALL PURPOSE GLOVES
COLOR
FABRIC PA
YELLOW
BLIP BLIP
BLOOP
BRAD
whats up? your pretty cute lol know any good parties around yr campus? i'd be down anytime. hit me back!!!!!!!!!
WELL HELLO, "BRAD."
snaps!

Barbara: hey, sorry, but i'm not gonna be able to make it, something came up. sorry to waste your time! :-(
...AW MAN, WHAT THE HELL?
WHAT'S WRONG, "BRAD"? SOMEONE STAND YOU UP?
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU JASON? OR ANDREW?
WHERE YOU GOING, LOVERBOY? ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
--THOUGHT THESE FREAKS STAYED ACROSS THE RIVER--
WHAT'S WRONG? I'M NOT YOUR TYPE?
LET'S SEE WHO IS. GIMME YOUR PHONE!
FWAM

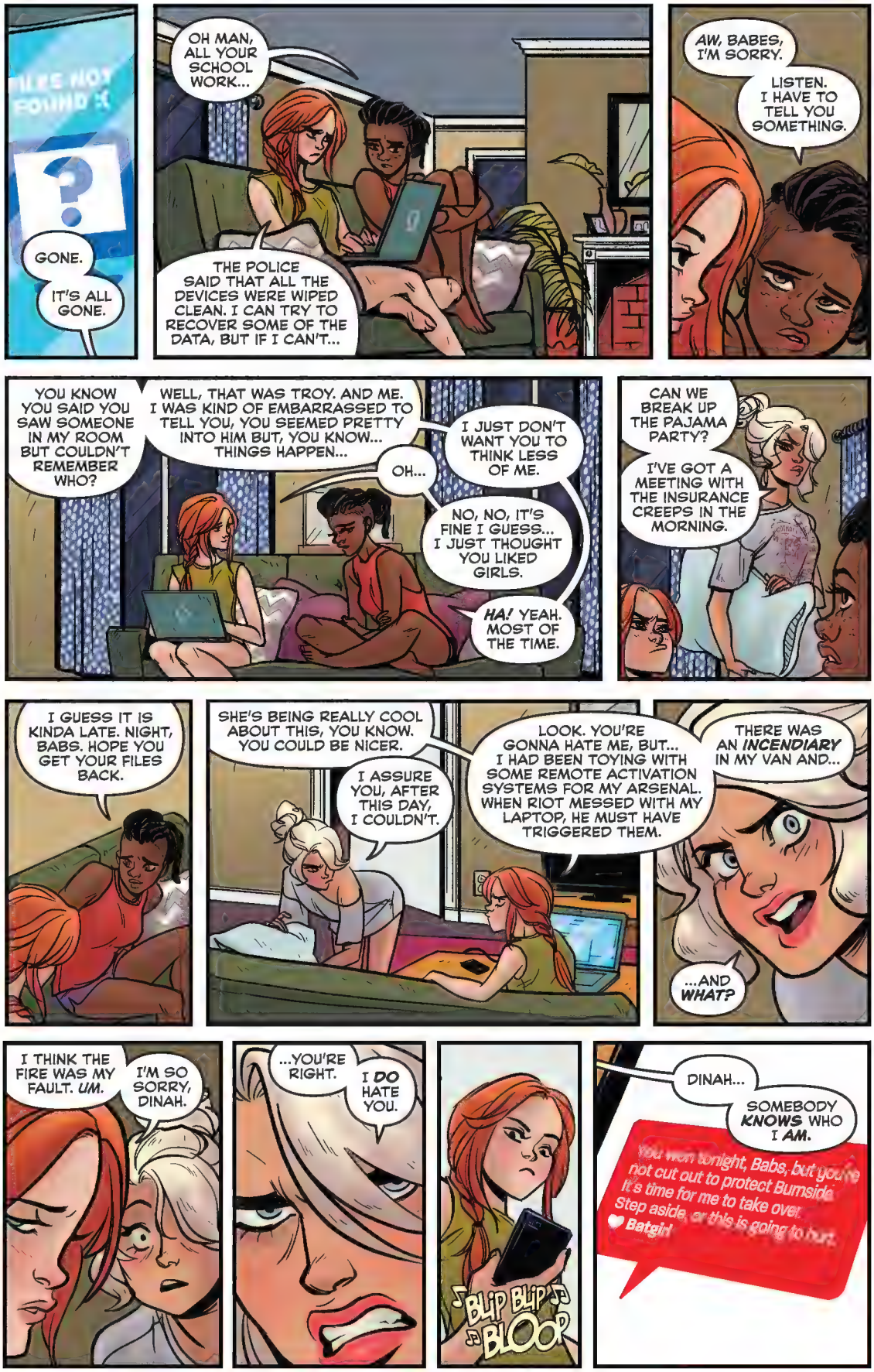
TAKE IT! TAKE IT! JUST DON'T HURT ME!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR STUFF TAKEN FROM YOU...
"FREDERICK ERNEST BUTTEROIL"? NICE NAME, GUY.
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHERE'S ALL THE STUFF YOU'RE RIPPING OFF?
RIOT-- RIOT BLACK...
OH, NO...
WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THE COMPUTERS?
SHKK H-HE ONLY WANTS THE DATA.
DUDE'S GOT A COMPUTER BRAIN OR SOMETHING-- HE SCANS THE DATA, WE KEEP THE STUFF... WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WIPING YOUR PHONE.
AW, NO! DON'T!
DON'T WORRY...I MADE A BACKUP.
I'M PUTTING A LITTLE SOMETHING ON HERE FOR YOUR BOSS.
NOW LISTEN UP, YOU TAKE THIS AND YOU GIVE IT TO BLACK.
YOU PUT IT RIGHT IN HIS SLEAZY LITTLE HAND. AM I CLEAR?
DON'T SCREW ME ON THIS, AND MAYBE I'LL FORGET YOU LIVE AT 6253 PINEWOOD LANE. AND THAT YOUR MOTHER'S PHONE NUMBER IS 714-555-9991. AND THAT YOUR SISTER--
OKAY, OKAY! WE DROP GOODS TO RIOT ON FRIDAY AT HIS CLUB. AT THE BIG PARTY. I'LL GIVE HIM THE PHONE, OKAY?
JUST...JUST DON'T CALL MY MOMS.

Invite 1
BLACK BOOK RELAUNCH PARTY
Friday 9:00 Genuflex
IT'S BACK, #ANGELS!!!!!!!!!!!
The website that posts all your dirty secrets for the world to s and well. Members are invited to celeb #god, host DJ RIOT
ATTENDING
Join
Maybe
Decline
+ Add followers to this event
...TOO MANY INNOCENT LIVES RUINED BY BLACK. OUR LEGAL TEAM SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKED HIS BLACKMAIL SITE "ARE YOU IN THE BLACK BOOK?"...
...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE CELEBRATION HERE TONIGHT, IT'S BACK ONLINE. SO FAR AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE SERVERS STORING HIS HOARD OF DATA...
GENUFLEX
QUIET RIOT!
RIOT SUX!
QUIET RIOT!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAAAAHHHHH! TAKE IT OFF AND GET GRABBY, #ANGELS! DO IT! DO IT, AND DM ME THE PICS!
SPEAKING OF ASSES, DIRTBAG, YOURS IS ABOUT TO BE TOTALLY KICKED.
SEND ME ENOUGH AND I'LL "BLACK BOOK" A DORK NAMED MARTY L. GIBBONS LAID UP IN ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.
I GOT ME SOME NAS-TAY PICTURES OF HIS CONDITION FROM AN ORDERLY AND I GUARANTEE YOU WILL LAUGH YOUR COLLECTIVE ASSES OFF!

OH, GLORIOUS #ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, COME TO SING, DANCE AND SHOW ME A LITTLE OF HER SOMETHIN SOMETHIN. TAKE IT ALL OFF AND MY #KINGDOM WILL BE YOURS!
I HAVE EVIDENCE THAT YOU'VE ILLEGALLY OBTAINED PRIVATE DATA, BLACK. I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO HAND IT OVER OR DELETE IT. YOU'RE NOT UNTOUCHABLE.
HAHAHA! OH, GIRLIE, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. I'M THE KINDA #GOD THAT'S VERY TOUCHABLE. COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.
GROSS. I'M GLAD THESE GLOVES PUT A LAYER BETWEEN YOUR FACE AND MY FISTS.
BRING IT ON, BLEEP!
LAST CHANCE, BLACK. DUMP THE DATA NOW!
HAHAHA! DAMN, BAE, YOU TRIPPIN! IT'S ALL UP IN MY HEAD!
THUD
I NEVER FORGET A NAME. OR A FACE. OR ANY OTHER EXPOSED BODY PART, FOR THAT MATTER!
KRAK
I KNOW THE FEELING.

BDAM
GIVE UP! AND MAYBE I WON'T FLUSH YOU!
BUT #BLACKMAIL IS SUCH A GOOD TIME, BATGIRL!
GGRRAAA--
PFF
PFUHH
HA!
THDD
FPP
KLONK
GIRL, I CAN DO THIS ALL NIGHT! YOU AIN'T GONNA STOP ME! YOU SHUT DOWN THE SITE, I JUST UPLOAD IT ALL AGAIN!
CHECK IT OUT, CYBERNETIC FLASH MEMORY IMPLANTS. PART OF MY BRAIN, YO! I CAN REVIEW WHENever AND FOREVER. IT'S PART OF ME. AIN'T NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO 'CEPT KILL ME.
OKAY, OKAY. TRUCE. I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL. IF YOU GIVE UP THE DATA, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE. I'LL GIVE YOU ME.
I'M LISTENING.
DELETE YOUR FILES AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S UNDER MY MASK. A PIC OF ME WITHOUT MY COWL.
DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH IT. I'LL BE RUINED. HUMILIATED. THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT GETS YOU OFF.
I'LL NEVER BE BATGIRL AGAIN.
GOTTA SEE #THEGOODS FIRST.
SNAPGAB?

OKAY. SNAPGAB IT IS. SENT.
SWEET. OPEN UP TO YOUR #GOD, BABY...
WH...WHAT IS...WAIT...MY DATA...I'M... I CAN'T...
Sucker
THAT LITTLE WORM RUNNING AROUND THE SILICON IN YOUR SKULL RIGHT NOW, EATING UP ALL THE DATA YOU'VE COLLECTED, IS A PIECE OF MALWARE YOU PULLED OFF ONE OF YOUR THUGS' PHONES TONIGHT.
AAAHHK! H-HELP ME! SOMEBODY...
DELETION PROGRESS...
GGGH... GGGKKHHH
I PLANTED IT THERE AND TRIGGERED IT WITH THE CODE YOU JUST SCANNED.
THE BLACK BOOK IS CLOSED.


FILES NOT FOUND
GONE.
IT'S ALL GONE.
OH MAN, ALL YOUR SCHOOL WORK...
THE POLICE SAID THAT ALL THE DEVICES WERE WIPED CLEAN. I CAN TRY TO RECOVER SOME OF THE DATA, BUT IF I CAN'T...
AW, BABES, I'M SORRY.
LISTEN. I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW YOU SAID YOU SAW SOMEONE IN MY ROOM BUT COULDN'T REMEMBER WHO?
WELL, THAT WAS TROY. AND ME. I WAS KIND OF EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU, YOU SEEMED PRETTY INTO HIM BUT, YOU KNOW... THINGS HAPPEN...
OH...
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK LESS OF ME.
NO, NO, IT'S FINE I GUESS... I JUST THOUGHT YOU LIKED GIRLS.
HA! YEAH. MOST OF THE TIME.
CAN WE BREAK UP THE PAJAMA PARTY?
I'VE GOT A MEETING WITH THE INSURANCE CREEPS IN THE MORNING.
I GUESS IT IS KINDA LATE. NIGHT, BABS. HOPE YOU GET YOUR FILES BACK.
SHE'S BEING REALLY COOL ABOUT THIS, YOU KNOW. YOU COULD BE NICER.
I ASSURE YOU, AFTER THIS DAY, I COULDN'T.
LOOK. YOU'RE GONNA HATE ME, BUT... I HAD BEEN TOYING WITH SOME REMOTE ACTIVATION SYSTEMS FOR MY ARSENAL. WHEN RIOT MESSED WITH MY LAPTOP, HE MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THEM.
THERE WAS AN INCENDIARY IN MY VAN AND...
...AND WHAT?
I THINK THE FIRE WAS MY FAULT. UM.
I'M SO SORRY, DINAH.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DO HATE YOU.
BLIP BLIP BLOOP
DINAH...
SOMEBODY KNOWS WHO I AM.
You won tonight, Babs, but you're not cut out to protect Burnside. It's time for me to take over. Step aside, or this is going to hurt.
Batgirl

Fifty years ago, Batgirl made her Million Dollar Debut taking down the nefarious Killer Moth. And ever since, the butt-kicking hero has been a vital part of Batman's team and a role model for girls everywhere, squaring off against mobsters, assassins, super-villains and more.

Though many young women have worn the cowl—from unassuming librarian Barbara Gordon to deadly mute assassin Cassandra Cain to teen vigilante Stephanie Brown—all have made their distinct mark on the DC Universe.

Now BATGIRL: A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS collects all the greatest triumphs and most tragic moments of the many Batgirls in one volume, offering a crash course in the character, from Babs' first appearance by **Gardner Fox** and **Carmine Infantino** to her modern-day adventures by **Cameron Stewart**, **Brenden Fletcher**, **Babs Tarr**, **Gail Simone** and more.

DCCOMICS.COM

PART IV • 2011-PRESENT
BARBARA IS BACK!

The events of Flashpoint and the "New 52" relaunch inspired several major shakeups in the DC Universe. One of the most startling developments was Barbara Gordon's return to active Batgirl duty years after the Joker shot her. Following a long rehabilitation and intense physical therapy, Barbara was miraculously able to walk again.

It didn't take her long to suit up and resume her career as a high-flying crime-fighter. As she bashed a villain in BATGIRL #1 (2011), she even admitted, "Feeling a creep crumble beneath my feet. I didn't even know how much I missed it."

Writer Gail Simone explained, "It's a bit of a shock, to be sure, but we're doing everything we can to be respectful to this character's amazing legacy, while presenting something thrilling that a generation of comics readers will be experiencing for the first time: Barbara Gordon leaping, fighting and swinging over Gotham. Now, when citizens of that city look up, they are going to see *Batgirl.* And that is absolutely thrilling."

New creative teams on the BATGIRL comic and more changes for Barbara (now going mostly by the nickname "Babs") came in 2014 and 2016, including a new costume, a new life as a Ph.D. student, adventures in Asia and a new cast of friends and allies.

Five decades after donning her first costume for a masquerade party, Barbara Gordon is still full of surprises. Not even a severed spinal cord could stop her from zooming back into action as Batgirl. Today she is stronger and smarter than ever. As Batman put it in Batgirl's very first adventure, "From what I've seen, she doesn't have to take a backseat to anybody!"